

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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Review of the Week.

CHRISTMAS has not interrupted the course of events abroad, or even at home. There has evidently been less suspension of official activity than usual. Although the day for the Paris Conference is not yet named, the Continental papers teem with proofs of the strenuous exertions made by the several Courts to establish a good position in the meeting, and, we suspect, to make it do more than England desires. While Courts are meeting, while Princes are plotting, we have had our own meetings, in the family, in the work-house. Pantomime has resumed its reign in the theatres, illustrating more closely than ever the way in which statesmen do their work. For, while the sage journalist piques himself on being able to tell the world what's o'clock, the agile statesman astonishes us all by jumping through the clock, and the grim garotter, clown of the streets, treats us all as the off-hand passenger is treated in the pantomime.

The meeting of the Conference, we are assured, is only delayed but to be exactly as our Ministers have all along expected, if not bargained—a formal meeting to interpret the 20th Article, and nothing else. We shall see. But, in the meanwhile, nothing is more evident than the necessity of a Congress to settle the quarrels that distract the whole of the Continent. The only objection to such a Congress would be, that the peoples would be absent from it. It would constitute a representation only of the grand ticket-of-leave men—those crowned caitiffs who have been convicted already of doing violence and injury to the peoples, and yet go at large. 'Prussia,' for example, is mustering his forces to perpetrate violence and spoliation in Switzerland. But the Swiss seem likely to make a brave stand; and the best hope for them, and for the other peoples of Europe, is, that FREDERICK WILLIAM may persevere; the worst chance for the peoples is, that other Sovereigns will persuade him to end his blustering, and to put up with the loss of Neuchâtel rather than to lose the tranquillity of the Continent.

The civic banquet given by the corporation of Portsmouth to Captain HARTSTEIN and the American officers of the Resolute has necessarily been made to do duty for the whole public, since he departs so soon; but the Portsmouth men man-

naged the matter so handsomely, that the entertainment would speak very well for the entire country. Few events which we have witnessed are so calculated to bring the two peoples together. Englishmen have seen the Yankee character travestied in the works of writers who ought to have known better; but here they had many representatives of the American Republic, and if they could not catch the expression of heartiness, energy, and frankness, Englishmen themselves must have lost their own sense of those qualities. There is more positive action on the other side of the Atlantic than remains for the average share of life in England; there is, therefore, in some degree, a certain force in the American manner which, to our over-polished habits, looks like 'roughness;' but we see the same thing in the English sailor, and prize it; and the main qualities of the two nations are the same. We have immense common interests. It may be said that a large mass of English property exists in the Union, and that an immense amount of American property exists here; for the manufacturers of England draw their value from American sale, and much cotton of the South would be worthless were it not for English consumption. In proportion as the people are brought together, their Governments will be prevented from setting them at loggerheads; and when they have the avowal of an earnest desire for friendliness from men of approved independence and courage, like Captain HARTSTEIN,—when they hear the republican Lieutenant WELLS avowing the satisfaction which he felt at the reception of Americans from the QUEEN and people of this country,—when they have the American Consul, Mr. CROSBY, urging English and American mothers to teach their children that "Anglo-Saxons" should not "bark and bite,"—when they see a Dr. OTIS confessing that the labours of a FRANKLIN were equally beneficial to America and to England,—the English people will find how untrue are the assertions of republican pride or Yankee jealousy.

Before an entertainment like this, a simple compliment to Admiral Sir HOUSTON STEWART sinks into insignificance. It is rather late to be repeating these compliments for the war of the Crimea; especially if our officials are about to stultify all the victories of that war in a Paris Conference, or to burlesque our vindication of Turkey by a betrayal of Switzerland.

Ministers, however, have 'come out strong' at some of these dinners; most especially did some

of them ventilate their liberalism and their successes at the dinner given to Mr. ARTHUR KINNAIRD by his Perth constituents. In Scotland they have a way of getting up these public dinners like school examinations, where the speakers appear in parts, and talk history in full dress.

The chief incident of ministerial activity before the public just now, is the success of Sir BENJAMIN HALL in bringing the London drainage question to a definitive issue. The Metropolitan Board of Works has agreed upon the plan marked B*, which would provide an outfall below Erith and Purfleet. It has been suggested by Sir MORTON PETO to continue the drainage to the German Ocean; and other plans might be proposed. The metropolis is not bound to go beyond the points indicated; there is no existing power to carry the works further; and what Sir BENJAMIN proposes is this: He would submit all the suggestions to three engineers—two civil and one military—who will be authorized to report upon the whole subject; and their report, together with the formal proceedings of the Metropolitan Board, and the request of that body for an advance of 3,000,000*l.*, will be laid before the House of Commons for a legislative judgment.

The finance of next session will be difficult; for the constituencies are fastening upon the idea that they must get rid of the Income-tax, and a very good idea it is. We have a considerable list of towns this week which have joined in the movement. It would be well for the public to keep in mind four facts which prove the tax to be one improper for a permanent impost. It can be evaded by dishonesty, and therefore falls with undue weight upon the honest. It is thus a premium to demoralization. It is paid in large sums at once,—a plan very inconvenient and congenial to immense numbers of tax payers, who draw their salary at short periods, and find it so hard to live at all, that it is difficult to save. It necessitates a disgusting and injurious inquisition into private affairs; an inquisition which is sometimes used unjustly if not vindictively. It is, as so many a meeting has pronounced it to be, unjust, uneconomical, despotic, and un-English.

There is, indeed, no saying how far the habit of lying evasion engendered by the Income-tax may not have assisted in producing the wholesale dishonesty that shows itself in so many aspects. We have this week scarcely a more numerous list of towns protesting than of defrauders, defaulters, and defalcators. We cast aside the rough and

barbarous garrotter, housebreaker, and footpad of the vulgarer orders; we omit even the humbler civilians of crime, and speak only of those who have something like a 'position.' There is, for example, Mr. HOOPER annexed to the list of persons implicated in the Great Northern fraud; while the refusal of the company to register some of the transfers, implies that there are other persons involved who have not yet been openly accused. There are Messrs. MANN and PAUL, officers of the City of London Poor-law Union, defaulting—PAUL, it is said, connected with the eminent banker of that name; the well-connected FLOOD, accused of issuing forged notes; and we have a Mr. CARR, arrested on a charge of stealing, released, and immediately afterwards accused again of stealing silk pocket-handkerchiefs, like an ordinary denizen of Petticoat-lane!

No doubt there are other causes for this universal demoralization besides the Income-tax. There is, for example, the exclusive ostentation, the flunkiness of the day, which teaches men that they will not be respected, perhaps will not succeed in life, unless they can "assume a virtue though they have it not," and seem rich though they are poor. Unless, like REDPATH, they live as if they had thousands, though they have but hundreds honestly. Another cause is the confusion of the law. Bankruptcy and Chancery have this week tried their own special cause before Lord Justice KNIGHT BRUCE, each claiming the right to administer the affairs of the Royal British Bank, and the Lord Justice cannot absolutely decide. He inclines to Bankruptcy, but must still concede to Chancery some control. The confusion of the law, he says, gives impunity to crime and chicane. The creditor might by this time have ten shillings in the pound; he is glad to have obtained a dividend, in three months, of five shillings in the pound.

Some neo-philanthropists are howling for more severe laws to defend society against its ruffians. The men who are committed this week to be tried for the great bullion robbery—scoundrels as they were, since they were untrue to their own confederate, AGAN, and defrauded the mother of his child—are artists and diplomatists, rather than ruffians in brutality. They do not compete with the well-connected Mr. HENDRICK, who stabs a girl in mere wantonness. How little increased severity would serve morals, however, might be learned in the frightful scene at Winchester, where one of the three Italians hanged for murder howled and struggled with the executioner, and did more to disgust the public with our brutal mode of punishing the brutal than a thousand essays of humanitarians.

BANQUET TO ADMIRAL SIR HOUSTON STEWART, K.C.B.

THE corporation and community of Greenock gave a banquet on the evening of Friday week to Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B. The entertainment took place in the Town Hall, which has just been opened, and which on this occasion was ornamented with shrubs, wreaths of laurel, stacks of armour, and colours, artistically displayed. Provost Hunter took the chair; and, in answer to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," the Duke of Argyll made a long speech, in which he thanked the country for the support which the Government had had during peace and war, and spoke of the determination of Lord Clarendon to see that the treaty of peace shall be carried out in its entirety and integrity. He added that he had no doubt that the efforts now being made by the Government with that view will be crowned with success. He hoped that, "when the transactions connected with this war are wound up and closed, we shall be able to resume terms of amity and friendship with that brave and gallant people with whom we have lately been at war." He conceived there were many circumstances in favour of the fulfilment of that hope. A young Emperor had succeeded to the throne; there could be no reason why he should

desire to augment his already vast dominions; and he (the Duke) had no doubt that Russia would now turn her attention to measures of social reform.

The chairman then proposed the toast of the evening—Sir Houston Stewart. After a eulogistic speech, the Admiral rose to reply, and (having first returned thanks for the reception he had met with, and alluded to the fact of his having been absent from his native country during ten years) addressed himself to a defence of the navy and army engaged in the late war from various charges of incompetence and want of energy which had been brought against them. It is the privilege of Englishmen, he remarked, always to growl and find fault. Had we begun sooner than we did to make gunboats, flat-bottomed boats, and mortar-boats, it would have embarrassed diplomacy. We are a commercial nation, and therefore cannot enter into a war so quickly as nations which delight in warfare. "They might talk as long as they pleased about ships and stone walls, the one versus the other; but he had lived long enough to know that, considering the combustibles and the immense increase of weight of metal with which ships would be met if they came in contact, they would have little chance. Unless they could place a ship of war within thirty yards of a stone battery, the wooden walls would not have the best of it. (Cheers.) They might probably allude to Acre and Algiers, but they must recollect the sage remark of the Duke of Wellington after the bombardment of Acre, in which he (Sir Houston) bore a humble part. At Algiers, they allowed the ships to take up their position. The Queen Charlotte, with Lord Exmouth, was actually within yard's length of the quay, and Lord Exmouth, before he would drop anchor, actually waved to the people to get out of the way. No doubt they would in such a case make precious work with the battery. At Acre, we put buoys upon the shoals in the night time to show where they were. The Egyptians thought these were the spots on which we meant to anchor our ships; they lowered all their guns for these buoys, and blocked up the embrasures with sand-bags to prevent our shot touching them. What was the consequence? They let us pass the shoals and then opened fire, but not till we were past them, and three times their batteries were manned and destroyed. That was taking up a position before they began. With respect to ships and stone walls, then, it is very easy to talk of the Baltic fleet and say it ought to have sent Cronstadt to the devil, but they should, after all, consider that it is much more easily said than done." He pursued a similar line of argument with respect to the fleet off Sebastopol, and then made several observations—*which, he being a sailor, he said must be disinterested*—in defence of the operations of our army during the siege of the great Crimean fortress, and asserted that in the final attack on the Redan we did all we could, that success was impossible (though the attempt was of service in helping the French), and that the circumstances under which the French attacked the Malakhoff were naturally much more favourable than those under which we assaulted the Redan. With some allusions to the unparalleled sufferings of the English army during the winter of 1854-5, and an assertion that Mr. Cobden could not be more desirous of peace than he himself was, provided that peace be consistent with honour, Sir Houston Stewart resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.

Some other speeches followed; the chief being that of the Duke of Argyll, who proposed "The memory of the heroes who fell during the last war." This, as usual, was drunk in solemn silence. In the course of his observations, the Duke said:—"As far as my own means of observation go, I can sincerely say that there was no nobler specimen of a British soldier ever born than the late Lord Raglan. I mention him now not as a general, because on his capacities in that respect I neither seek, nor do I care, to pronounce any opinion whatever. I mention him simply as a soldier who fell at his post of duty; not, indeed, by the bullet of the enemy, but by the pestilence that walked at noonday among the gallant ranks of the British army. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, I can only say in conclusion, that I trust throughout every class there will in future, and for many years to come, be a juster appreciation of what I have called the nobler virtues of the military character, that you will remember that in their devotion to duty, not merely in the very face of danger, but under circumstances of infinite difficulty and trial, they have been, and are, an example to civilians in their respective walks of life. (Cheers.) I give 'The memory of the late Lord Raglan.'"

THE ARCTIC SHIP RESOLUTE.

CAPTAIN HARTSTEIN, Lieutenant C. H. Wells, Lieutenant E. E. Stone, Lieutenant Hunter Davidson, Dr. Maccoun, and Dr. Otis, comprising all the officers of her Majesty's ship Resolute, were entertained at the Admiralty-house last Saturday evening by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Crosskey, Consul-General for the United States for this district, and Chevalier Vincent Pappalardo, Vice-Consul at Portsmouth, were also guests, with a large circle of naval officers.

Several gentlemen, Arctic voyagers and others, were

entertained by Captain Hartstein on board the Resolute, on Sunday evening. Lieutenant Bedford Pin, who had previously known the American Captain, and who, a few years back, made in the Resolute that journey which led to the preservation of the crew of the Investigator, was present. The reception of the Lieutenant by Captain Hartstein, and the gratification on the part of the former at again meeting his friend, were extremely warm and cordial.

Mr. Cunard, the owner of the celebrated line of Atlantic steamers, has made an offer to the United States Government to convey the whole of the officers and crew of the Resolute, on their return voyage, free of charge. The offer, however, has been declined, with the most hearty expressions of appreciation and thanks, on the ground that other arrangements had been already made, which could not conveniently be set aside.

The deputation from the Shipowners' Association of Liverpool, comprising Mr. S. R. Graves, chairman, Mr. James Smith, and Mr. E. A. Clint, arrived on Tuesday at Portsmouth, and inspected the Victory and Clarence-yard, whence they were embarked by Mr. John Davies, master-attendant of that establishment, accompanied by Mr. James Garratt, of the firm of Garratt, Gibbon, and Sons, agents to Lloyd's for the Resolute. They were received at the gangway by Captain Hartstein and officers, and conducted below. After an introduction and a little rest, the deputation were invited to the quarter-deck, where the officers and crew were assembled, together with Chevalier Pappalardo, the Vice-Consul, and Mr. Davies. Mr. Graves then addressed Captain Hartstein in a suitable speech, and then read the document with which he was charged by the Shipowners' Association, and which acknowledged, in cordial language, the graceful and generous character of the gift brought over by the American officer, and spoke of it as another guarantee of the impossibility of England and the United States going to war.

To this, Captain Hartstein delivered the following reply:—"Gentlemen,—To say that I feel honored by this unmistakable mark of your consideration would but feebly express my sense of the compliment which you have thus paid through me to the Government whose representative I now have the honour to be. Meeting you as delegates from the shipowners of the great commercial city of the United Kingdom, I rejoice at the kindly feeling thus manifested for a nation with whose interests you are so intimately connected. In my present mission to your Government you can read the spirit of Americans towards the people of this country, and can easily believe that your happy allusion to the mutual bonds of origin and a community of feeling between us will meet with a cordial response. The advancement of science and the arts, to which both nations have, in a spirit of generous rivalry, so greatly contributed, have forged our ancient geographical positions. Miles and oceans have become almost synonymous words, and now the iron messengers of our commerce fly like steam shuttles, weaving between us a fabric of mutual interest. May that spirit of friendly emulation, enterprise, and enlightened purpose, which has given to our shipping interests the distinguished place they occupy throughout the universe, ever continue. For your expression of friendly interest and congratulations to myself and officers of the Resolute, be pleased, gentlemen, to accept our hearty thanks."

The deputation and officers (who had stood unmoved during the whole of the interesting ceremony) then went below and partook of a handsome breakfast in the gun-room, presided over by Captain Hartstein, Lieutenant Wells filling the vice-chair. On the deputation leaving the ship in the gig of Mr. Davies, of the Clarence-yard, the crew of the Resolute mounted the rigging and gave them three hearty cheers, which were as heartily returned by all in the gig.

The civic banquet to the American officers took place on Wednesday, when the Mayor of Portsmouth presided. In answer to the toast of his health, and the health of his officers, Captain Hartstein said:—"Mr. Mayor and gentlemen,—For your kind expression of good feeling towards my country, myself, and the other officers of the Resolute, I sincerely thank you. We have been sent to your shores on a mission of friendship (loud cheers), and we have met with a brother's welcome (renewed cheers), for which our thanks are due to all. I most cordially express those thanks to the municipal authorities of this city, who are among the first in the generous competition to offer us the hand of greeting and hospitality (cheers); and let me express the earnest hope that the union of our flags on this festive occasion may prove emblematic of the feelings of our respective countries for all coming time. (Cheers.) I again thank you for the manner in which you have drunk our healths, and hope every success may attend this city in its commerce, and its citizens in all their undertakings." Prolonged cheering followed this address. Captain Hartstein then proposed "The Health of the Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth, and success to their commerce." The Mayor returned thanks; and Mr. Crosskey, the American consul-general for the district, in the course of a brief speech which he delivered, said he was sure that, had the circumstances been reversed, England would have made the same present to America as America had just made to England. The world, he observed, is large enough for both nations without their coming into collision. The East seems

to be peculiarly England's province, and the West America. "When he heard the possibility of a war between the two countries, the idea appeared to him to be so unnatural that he found himself repeating, with the alteration of a few words, an old nursery rhyme, as familiar on their side of the Atlantic as on this, and it might not be inappropriate, on the present occasion, to mention them:—

Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so;
Let Turks and Russians growl and fight,
For 'tis their nature to.
But Anglo-Saxons should not let
Their angry passions rise;
Their great big hands were never made
To tear each others' eyes.

(Cheers and laughter.) He (Mr. Crosskey) recommended both English and American mothers to adopt this version in teaching their children.

After the delivery of several other speeches, and the drinking of various toasts, the company separated about midnight.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.

The Dublin police have at length arrested a man, and placed him before a magistrate, on suspicion of being the murderer of Mr. Little. The man's name is Michael George Harrington, living in Wellington-street, Dublin; and the chief witnesses against him were a Mrs. Feeney, to whose house Harrington went on the night of the murder, and Eliza Fitzsimons, Mrs. Feeney's servant, a woman who had formerly lived in the service of Harrington. The evidence of Mrs. Feeney embodies the chief facts which were brought forth last Saturday. She said:—

"I have known Mr. Harrington five or six years. I saw him last Tuesday (the 16th inst.), and that day week, between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning, in Bow-street. About five or six or more weeks ago, he came to my room about twelve o'clock at night. He was seemingly feeble, and sat down on the side of the bed. The girl Fitzsimons and my child came up the stairs with him. After he had sat down on the bed, he asked for a drink of water. The child handed it to him. He took a black bottle out of his pocket and poured some whisky from it into the water. The bottle had a green label. He said he was greatly put about with an attack of his nerves. I saw his left hand with blood on the back of it and through the fingers. There was also blood on his cheeks, but more on the left than on the right cheek. Across his chin there was likewise blood. He asked for more water, and said he wanted to wash his face. He got the water, and pulled a handkerchief from his breast, put it into the basin, and then washed his hands. I handed him a towel. He bade me take the candle off the table. When I had done so, he put his foot upon the leaf of the table, and with the towel which I had given him he rubbed down the front of his clothes, dipping the towel in the cup of spirit and water. He wiped his coat, trousers, leggings, and shoes. Before he got the water to wash himself, I remarked the blood, and asked him how he came to be so bloody. He replied that he had been in a riot, that he went to make peace, and got the worst of it. I told him I thought he was with an unfortunate woman whom he kept, a big woman named Whelan, and that she had attacked him; but he said no, he did not know anything about her; that it was not very far away where he got it. He said he thought they were some of the blackguards from Canneck's who were fighting. He asked me then to go as far as the aqueduct to his son John's lodgings, to see if he was in. I said he had often been there, that I had nothing to put about me at that late hour of the night, and that he might go by himself. He said he did not wish to go about the place, as an awful occurrence had taken place, and that a man was killed. He said he was greatly put about by hearing this, and that he did not wish to go up there. He took off his two coats, a short black one and the outside coat which he now wears. He said there was paint on the back of one of them, and asked me to take it off for him; he asked me to give it a touch over altogether—any place where I might see it dirty. At the time he asked me to go to his son's lodgings, he said that perhaps Feeney would not be pleased; and I said whether he would or not I would not go. I saw a stick with him, with a small weapon like a dagger in it. He wiped this on the towel. He put on his coat and walked down stairs, but came back again, took more water, and said he was greatly put about in his nerves. He afterwards left for the night. On Friday, the day following, he came again for his coat, and took it away. I found blood on the back, the side body, and the breast. I told him that there was no paint except a little white paint on the coat, which I could not get off, as I had no turpentine, and that the remaining spots were blood. He told me that he had a coat for repair by Feeney; but I said that we had constant work, and could not take it from him."

The object of the cross-examination of Mrs. Feeney, of Eliza Fitzsimons, and of another witness, named Taylor (who merely reported some conversations he had had with the two women about the affair), was to show that Mrs. Feeney had once had a quarrel with Harrington; that Fitzsimons had been accused by him, when she was his servant, of stealing some shirts, in consequence of which he detained a part of her wages, and was summoned by her; that there was a dishonest collusion between the two women, partly in order that they might be revenged on the accused; and that they did not say anything about their suspicions until they were induced to do so by the public offer of a reward for the apprehension of the murderer, of which they were informed by Taylor. They both, however, vehemently denied that the reward had any influence over them.

Harrington was remanded till Tuesday, when he was again brought up, and a servant woman named O'Halloran deposed that he had not been from his home later than half-past nine o'clock on any night since the last week of October. The magistrate said that, independently of this testimony, he had no hesitation in saying that, upon the information received on Saturday, there was no case whatever against Harrington. He was then discharged.

IRELAND.

THE RUN FOR GOLD.—The run on the branches of the National Bank in the South of Ireland has partly subsided; the panic being in some measure allayed by the arrival last Saturday at the offices of the bank of 200,000*l.* in sovereigns from London. Previously to this, however, all demands for gold had been instantaneously met; and this contributed not a little to show the groundlessness of the depositors' fears. It is said that, on the 22nd of last November, the Irish banks had a surplus of gold and bullion, beyond the amount required by their fixed issues, of 1,481,868*l.*

THE INCOME-TAX.—A special meeting of the corporation was fixed for Friday week with a view of discussing the propriety of petitioning the Legislature for the abolition of the war 9*d.* But the council would not assemble in sufficient numbers, the attendance, indeed, being so scanty that a motion for adjournment was at once agreed to. The adjourned meeting was successfully held on Wednesday.

ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.—Properties situate in the counties of Cork, Dublin, Cavan, and Meath were put up for sale on Friday week, and disposed of at the current market rates of purchase. The gross amount realized was the largest in any one day during the present term—namely, 85,520*l.*

JOHN SADLER AGAIN.—In the office of the Master in Chancery, on Saturday, counsel on behalf of Mr. Thomas Eyre, of Bath, applied to the Master to receive proof of a bill of exchange for 17,000*l.*, dated Nov. 26, 1855, which was drawn by the late John Sadler, accepted by the manager of the Clonmel branch of the Tipperary Bank, and endorsed by John Sadler to Mr. Eyre. The Master said that for the present he should only receive the document as exhibited to him. It was a monstrous thing that this bill of exchange should have been accepted by the manager in November, 1855, shortly before the failure of the bank, for so large a sum as 17,000*l.*, when he knew perfectly well that John Sadler at that time owed the bank 200,000*l.* or 250,000*l.* In his opinion, he ought to be indicted for fraud.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—Mr. Galbraith Joynt, a gentleman who holds landed property at Mount St. Catherine, in the county of Clare, which he recently purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court, was shot at a few evenings ago from behind a hedge, as he was returning home in his gig. He was severely wounded in the fleshy part of one of his legs and feet, but is not considered in a dangerous state. The reason assigned for the act is that Mr. Joynt had served notices of ejectment upon several tenants who are to be dispossessed in March.

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—Mr. Francis Dwyer, the assistant secretary of the Repeal Association, and for some years private secretary to the late Mr. O'Connell, is now an applicant for admission into a Dublin workhouse. His father filled the post of secretary to the Catholic Association up to the passing of the Relief Act of 1829, and had been previously one of the leading merchants in the city of Cork.

THE DUBLIN RAILWAY FRAUDS.—A commission under the Great Seal has been issued to Mr. Henry O'Hara and Mr. Francis William Brady, commissioners, to ascertain what property James Montgomery Knighting, late chief clerk in the transfer office of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, was possessed of at the time of his conviction for felony, which has become forfeited to the Crown. The commission will open on Tuesday, the 30th inst., at eleven o'clock, and the sheriff of the city of Dublin has been required to summon a jury to aid the commissioners in the inquiry.

AMERICA.

The most exciting intelligence from the United States this week has reference to a projected insurrection among the slaves in various parts of Tennessee. Twenty-four muskets and two kegs of powder have been found in the possession of a gang of negroes at Columbia. At Perry, fifteen negroes have been killed by their owners. There has been much excitement in the neighbourhood of Dover, on the Cumberland river, among the negroes. Many of the ringleaders have been arrested, and eleven hanged. One white man, "disguised as a negro," has

been sentenced to nine hundred lashes, but he died before the penalty was fully inflicted. The whites are arming and organising for defence. An opinion prevails that a general uprising will take place among the negroes during the holidays. Escapes of slaves have been unusually numerous. Four or five white men—it is said, upon mere suspicion—have been put to ignominious deaths. The conspiracy is believed to extend through six or seven states. Large bodies of slaveholders are patrolling the south-western parts of the United States, to intercept negro communication by night, and a rigorous system of police has been established.

The Governor of Iowa, alluding, in his annual Message, to the outrages against former citizens of that state, committed by disorderly persons in Kansas, has announced that in his opinion it is the duty of the state to protect her children who may have emigrated, when the Federal Government is unable to do so. Mr. Whitfield, the pro-slavery delegate from Kansas, has been admitted into the House of Representatives by a narrow majority of four.

The Special Committee of the South Carolina Legislature had reported and asked leave to sit during the recess, and report at the next session on the Governor's recommendation to reopen the slave trade. The persons arraigned before the United States District Court on a charge of fitting out the *Pancheta* as a slaver have been acquitted.

Resolutions have been introduced in the South Carolina Legislature deprecating the continual agitation of the abstract theories relative to the slave trade and other matters, as dividing and distracting the state, and alienating from her the support and sympathies of other states. The Southern convention has met in the city of Savannah, Georgia, to consult on such measures as would best promote the prosperity of the South. The number of delegates to the convention was very large.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* announces that a new British treaty has just been concluded by Mr. Dallas, and that it will shortly be laid before the Senate for confirmation. That journal characterizes it as one of the most important documents that have lately seen the light, and states that it has every reason to believe that this new treaty, while affirming the old principle of the Clayton-Bulwer Convention—namely, that neither the United States nor England desire to colonize or fortify for their exclusive benefit any part of the territory on the isthmus or in Central America—contemplates a much larger field of operations than that memorable treaty. It has reference, the writer understands, to Cuba and the Spanish possessions, as well as Central America, and its object is the consolidation of the present political condition of those colonies, islands, and states, with a view to the general pacification of that part of the world and the extension of trade; that it is, in fact, a commercial and conservative treaty. The writer conceives that, if the United States depart from their past policy in guaranteeing Cuba to Spain, they do so in return for a grant of commercial privileges so extensive that in a commercial point of view even annexation could give them nothing more. He says it may safely be assumed that the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada has served the framers of this new treaty as a guide, and in some respects a model; and, as the Provincial Legislature of Canada was a party to that, by the act giving force to the royal treaty, so, no doubt, the Government of Spain is a party to this, and stipulates gratefully for the changes by which she is by far the greatest gainer. He gives Mr. May's credit for the scheme, and adds that a treaty guaranteeing Cuba to Spain before Mr. Buchanan's Administration would deprive that gentleman of his most promising chance of glorification, and would clear the way, in 1860, of many obnoxious rivals.

Mr. A. P. Cook has arrived at Washington from Arizona, the new territory formed out of the Gadsden purchase from Mexico. He had with him his credentials, and claimed a seat in the House as delegate from that territory. He reported the population of Arizona at from 10,000 to 15,000 persons, and stated that the territory would make a state about as large as Pennsylvania.

The President has announced his determination to recall Judge Lecompte. The Judge's successor was not appointed at the last date.

Mr. Henry George Kuper, British Consul at Baltimore, has been suffocated whilst in a house in the eastern part of the city, which was burnt. The other inmates narrowly escaped. Mr. Kuper has a family in England.

Mr. Jacob Little, the largest operator at the New York Stock Board, has failed; but he has been able to propose a satisfactory compromise. According to some reports, he had speculative sales open to the extent of nearly two millions sterling, principally in railway stock; but the last advices from England reported an improvement in the money market; this caused a general advance in quotations, and Mr. Little was compelled at once to declare his inability to meet his engagements. He offered, however, to fulfil his contracts at the prices of the previous day; and this proposal is likely to be accepted. He has failed twice before (the last time in 1855); but on both occasions he has ultimately paid in full. Another stoppage has occurred at Boston—that of Henshaw and Son, bankers and stock dealers, also with very heavy liabilities.—In the New York money market

the demand has been more active, with a free supply of unemployed capital.

Vidauri has been again defeated in Mexico, and has acknowledged the Government of Comonfort. The siege of Puebla continues.

THE CONFERENCES.

SOME information, apparently official, with respect to the approaching resumption of the Paris Conference, is contained in a recent number of the *Constitutionnel*. A summary of this article, with extracts from the more important parts, is given by the *Times* Paris Correspondent. We here learn that the French writer notices, for the purpose of contradicting them, the rumours which have found their way into "foreign journals" relative to an adjournment of the Conference, the doubts entertained in high quarters as to the utility of opening them, and the new difficulties that have arisen from the pretensions of some of the Powers who are to send Plenipotentiaries—pretensions which were not admitted by others, and which might lead to the abandonment of the Conference altogether. The *Constitutionnel* states that there is no foundation for these rumours; that there is no reason to doubt that the Plenipotentiaries will assemble at the period already indicated, namely, towards the end of the present month; that nothing of a serious nature has occurred to the present date to impede the preparations for the meeting; and that the delay had been foreseen and was inevitable. No time has been lost, as the Conference could not be held before the arrival of instructions from the Ambassador of the Sublime Porte. The convocation dates from the 1st of December, and the instructions of the Porte left Constantinople on the 12th. The bearer of them is one of the sons of the Grand Vizier, and he is expected in Paris in a few days. "The delay which has taken place," observes the *Constitutionnel*, "has been turned to account, and the spirit of conciliation and the judgment which decided the reunion of the Plenipotentiaries have not ceased, in the meantime, to reconcile differences of opinion, and to conduct matters, as nearly as possible, to a solution. There is every appearance that some few sittings will suffice for the labours of the Conference, and that these sittings will not be prolonged beyond the first days of January. There is reason to hope that the question of the frontiers of Bessarabia will then be settled, as well as the other difficulties of less importance which relate to this part of the treaty. The labours of the Congress will receive from the first days of the new year their definitive sanction, and no further obstacle will exist to their execution."

The *Constitutionnel* then alludes to the organization of the Danubian Principalities, and the impossibility of convoking the Divans in order to ascertain the wishes of the population, owing to the presence of foreign troops on the territory. The foreign occupation has not ceased, because the frontier question is not yet decided. When the question is decided, the troops will evacuate the Moldo-Wallachian territory, and the Divans will forthwith assemble. When the wishes of the Principalities are ascertained, the European Commission will terminate its labours; the Conference will once more, and for the last time, assemble in Paris, as the treaty prescribes; it will take under consideration the wishes of the Moldo-Wallachian people as expressed by the Divans, and also the report of the European Commission, which will serve as the basis of that important question. The article concludes:—"We may therefore flatter ourselves with the hope that this last phase of negotiations which have kept alive the attention of Europe since the Congress in Paris, will no longer meet with any serious impediments, and that the new organization required by the Principalities will take effect in the spring."

The substance of the instructions received at Paris by the Turkish Ambassador as regards the Conference is that Belgrad and the Isle of Serpents shall be given up by Russia. Complete fulfilment of the Treaty of Paris, for the organization of the Danubian Principalities, is demanded, as well as a settlement, as soon as possible, of the Turco-Russian frontier line in Asia, when the season of the year will permit it. The great Powers are begged to take into serious consideration the state of Turkey, which desires to develop its resources, to become a strong Power, and to be no longer a source of anxiety to the West. The Sardinian Plenipotentiary has received instructions. The day for the opening of the Conference has not yet been fixed.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

M. DE CONCY, French Consul-General in China (says the *Courrier de Lyon*), has received orders to demand reparation from the Emperor of China for the death by violence of the Abbé Chapdelaine, who fell a martyr to his religion. This demand will be supported by the French squadron, charged to compel the Emperor of China to allow a representative of France to reside at Peking—a privilege which Russia alone has hitherto enjoyed.

The Emperor and Empress made an afternoon call on Friday week upon Baron James Rothschild, at the house, Rue Laftite, No. 17, in which M. Salomon de Rothschild lately died. This handsome house was formerly occupied by the Queen Hortense, and Louis Napoleon was born in it.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

Baron James de Rothschild has just placed for the poor of Paris, at the disposal of the General Administration of Public Assistance, 80,000 kilogrammes of bread, first quality, to be taken from the different bakers in the capital. The tickets for the distribution of this gift were immediately divided among the various bureaux de bienfaisance to be delivered to the poor.—*Idem.*

The attention of French merchants is drawn by the *Journal des Débats* to the excellent market for French productions which is offered by Persia. The natives of that country, it is said, are possessed of a refined taste, and are willing to pay for what they like. The Persians, also, unlike the Turks, do not feel any religious objection to works of art representing figures of living creatures, natural objects, &c., and would therefore gladly purchase European pictures and engravings.

A report by the Minister of Finance, submitting the budget of the Civil List for 1857 to the Emperor's approval, has been published in the *Moniteur*. The Minister writes:—"The experience of the past year makes it my duty to call the attention of your Majesty to the necessity of putting a limit to your munificence. The provisions of the budget of 1856, adopted by the Emperor, presented at the end of the year an excess of receipts which acts of liberality have nearly cancelled. Many of these expenses consist in pensions and annual indemnities, which will be renewed in 1857, and it would be running the risk of compromising that balance which your Majesty has always advised me to maintain to accept too readily the requests made daily for subventions and aid of every description. It is as well to lay before your Majesty the sums which, in 1856, were charged upon your civil list for such purposes. This outlay, which had not been provided for, exceeds 6,300,000*fr.* Despite these calls, no branch of the service suffered, no payment was delayed, all the contractors were paid regularly, and yet the provisional return of 1856 offers, though small, it is true, an excess of receipts. It is only to provide for the future, as, thanks to the wisdom of your Majesty, we have succeeded in preserving the past, that I must lay a stress upon advising the Emperor to keep his acts of munificence within bounds. The accounts of the civil list for 1853 have been examined and audited by the committee appointed by the Imperial decree of the 26th of May, 1853, and their report was placed before your Majesty on the 3rd of May, 1855. At the present moment the accounts of 1854 are in the hands of that committee, and those of 1855 will shortly be submitted to it."

A Captain Morrison, of the English Artillery, has written a history of Napoleon III., and the French papers publish the following letter of thanks from the Emperor in return for a presentation copy:—"Palace of the Tuilleries, December 6. Sir,—When the truth is so often distorted, it is consoling to see a disinterested and dispassionate writer take upon himself the task of collecting documents which render to facts their certainty, and to intentions all their purity. This delicate task you have been good enough to undertake in my favour, and, as I have observed in many passages of your work, you seem to have accomplished it. I am very thankful. It is not for me doubtless to praise a book which contains the narrative of my life, but I may at least be permitted to express to you how sensible I am of the noble motive which inspired the work. Accept, sir, with my sincere thanks, the assurance of all my sentiments. NAPOLEON."

M. Michelot, the celebrated comedian of the Théâtre-Français, died on Thursday week at his residence at Passy, in his seventy-first year.

The ruins of a Roman theatre have been discovered at Triguères, near Montargis. It is seventy yards long from the back of the pit to the stage, and sixty yards wide. It could have easily held ten thousand spectators. The interior of the theatre is not yet uncovered.

Prince Frederick William of Prussia left Paris last Sunday on his return to Prussia.

SPAIN.

A revolutionary club has been discovered at Madrid. Some persons are said to have been arrested, and several proclamations seized.

The three hundred million loan has been definitively adjudged to M. Mirès, at 42.56. M. Rothschild's agent offered only 42.50.

There is a great scarcity of food in Spain at the present time, and destitution prevails to an alarming extent; but Marshal Narváez and his co-Ministers continue to give receptions of sumptuous magnificence. A rigid despotism is enforced; the Liberal Journals, and those devoted to the interests of O'Donnell, are coerced into submission to the ruling power, while, on the other hand, the Absolutist and Carlist papers are allowed the utmost licence. The Ministers, says a letter from Madrid, of the 17th, "have recently issued orders for the early closing of the shops and *cafés*, precisely as he did; and these measures, which are considered by them as precautionary, produce great irritation among the public without any advantage whatever to the Government. The Ministers do not stir out without being accompanied by police agents. Each Minister is attended by three of them as a body-guard, and when his carriage stops at the door of a house, two policemen place themselves at the corner of the street, and the third at the entrance of the house. All wear large cloaks, and carry under their arms a loaded blunderbuss.—General O'Donnell has had an interview with the Queen.

Some of the Ministers who saw him in the auto-chamber got much alarmed, and a Cabinet Council was held at midnight. During the interview, General O'Donnell informed the Queen that he was aware that his name was made use of to his injury, and that plans of military conspiracies were attributed to him with which he had nothing whatever to do. The Queen calmed O'Donnell's anxiety; she told him he might remain perfectly tranquil, as she did not believe a word of these rumours, and that she was satisfied with his services. The conversation then turned on the loan, and O'Donnell explained to her Majesty the bad effect produced in public by that measure."

ITALY.

"Some curious scenes," says the *Times* Turin correspondent, "have taken place at Parma in consequence of the preaching of some Neapolitan missionaries in the cathedral. It seems that the archbishop had given permission to these missionaries to preach, and that they had exercised the privilege at the evening service in the popular style of Padre Rocco, as described by Alexandre Dumas in his *Impressions de Voyage*, only without courting the responses of their audience, or, at all events, not such responses as they eventually elicited. Placed in a large box, or *palco* (as it is described), with flickering lights on either side, and themselves arrayed in hair-cloth, in the dim twilight of the building, they made the most passionate and grotesque appeals to their hearers, pretending to see purgatory and hell; and, in illustration of what they were supposed to have beheld, a violent lashing of ropes' ends, attended with groaning sufficiently diabolical to convince the most sceptical, was heard from their box to represent the sufferings of purgatory, and a horrible rattling of chains, together with blue flames, was used to give a popular description of that place which should never be mentioned to ears polite. On one occasion, the preacher spoke of the dreadful consequences of persons dying without being perfectly reconciled to the Church or pardoned by competent authority, and he quoted as an instance a woman who had died in Parma a few days before, who, he said, he was sure was then suffering the pains of the damned because she had not received absolution in proper form. 'Many people here don't believe what I say, probably,' said he; 'but I hope God will give me the means of proving my assertion.' Then, after some minutes of silent prayer, during which the congregation was, of course, in the greatest state of excitement to know the result, he cried out in a loud voice, '*Catarina! Catarina! dove stai?*' to which a reply was given in agonised accents (with accompaniments), '*In inferno!*' The style, however, proved too powerful for the Parmesan taste; one or two women went into hysterics, and at last those who went to pray remained to scoff. In fact, the missionaries were hissed, and the Government was obliged to beg the archbishop to interfere to prevent further scenes; which he promised to do." According to the account of this indecent foolery, given by the *Daily News* correspondent, the hissing was caused in this way:—"The priest, after exhorting the people to reconcile themselves with Christ, offered to them a wooden crucifix to kiss. Some persons approached with a view to performing this act of homage; but, the moment their lips came near the figure, it drew back, and the priest protested that their sins were so great that the image could not endure their polluting touch. This trick was too startlingly impudent; so the people literally rose in rebellion, and the priest and his attendants were compelled to seek safety in flight."

The proposal of the Argentine Republic to the King of Naples, mentioned in these columns a few weeks ago, to take out as labourers a certain number of the political prisoners, has been reduced to the form of a treaty, which, however, has not yet been signed. Naples is to pay the expenses of the voyage to South America; the Argentine Republic is to guarantee, for the first year, two hundred and fifty piastres to each emigrant (for it is proposed that the expatriation shall be voluntary, though the Neapolitan Government wishes to use the word "transportation"), with land and stock; and the treaty is to remain in force for three years, or, as the King of Naples desires, four years. The piastres which the Republic is to advance are to be repaid in five years.

The powder magazine at the end of the New Mole Naples, blew up on the 17th inst. with a terrific report. An immense amount of damage has been done to the fortifications, and to vessels in the harbour, some of which were sunk; and some sixty thousand windows (including several in the palace), have been blown to atoms, strewing the ground with powdered glass. The loss of life is variously estimated at from fifteen to twenty. The damage to the Government works is supposed to amount to 500,000 ducats.

The medal subscribed for by the inhabitants of the Legations in the Roman States was presented on the 18th instant to Count Cavour.

The company already in possession of the concession of the railway from Naples to Tarento has obtained the prolongation of the line on the north to the frontiers, the railway thus traversing the entire kingdom.

The particulars of the execution of Milano, the man who attempted to stab the King of Naples, are, says the *Daily News* correspondent, "as disgusting as can well be conceived. A ladder rested against the cross beam, by which the criminal was compelled to mount. It took full five minutes or more to adjust the rope; as soon as

this was done, the body was turned off the ladder, and the executioner mounted on the man's shoulders, worked up and down as if on horseback, and beat the head from side to side with his fists, whilst he looked around upon the officials as though seeking for approbation. This disgusting scene naturally produced a great impression on the crowd, some of whom fainted. As far as I can learn, not merely the crowd, but the soldiers, observed a proper and a serious demeanour on the occasion, and a general sympathy was felt with the sufferer. 'What courage! what piety!' the people exclaimed: 'Poverino! poor fellow!' Such was the sentiment, and such were the words that were uttered." But while the people applaud the would-be assassin, who struck for liberty, crowned heads sympathize with the tyrant on his escape. "Our Queen," says the *Morning Star*, "has followed the example of the Emperor of the French, and a mark of sympathy on her part has been transmitted to the King of Naples on account of the late attempt. So at least we are informed by Continental organs. An address of congratulation has also been sent in by the English residents of Naples to the King. Thus, a sovereign whom our Government and a portion of the English public think fit to menace, still commands their sympathy when his life is attempted."

RUSSIA.

The *Austrian Gazette*, in referring to the capture of the eighteen small vessels by the Russians on the coasts of Circassia, declares that Russia is in the right, and then goes on to remark:—"It would be erroneous to see in these facts the germ of a new quarrel between Russia and Turkey, as they can be satisfactorily explained. Soukhouni Kalé is a Russian town, which a band of mountaineers and Turkish deserters had occupied; and naturally, after the war, Russia was desirous of retaking possession of it. The Turkish Government cannot feel offended at this event, as it quite recently refused to listen to the deputations of Circassians who have on several occasions solicited the co-operation of the Porte. The capture of the Turkish merchant vessels is connected with the measures which Russia takes to re-establish her sovereignty in the Caucasus. Diplomacy has nothing to say to this affair, which belongs entirely to the consular agents."

There is talk of an approaching visit of the Grand Duke Constantine to Paris, on his return from Nice, to which place he is to conduct his wife on a visit to the Empress Mother.

A Polish correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette* writes that the Russians have long been preparing for the outbreak of war between England and Persia. The garrison of Astrakhan has been strengthened, and the Cossacks in the neighbourhood of that city have received a new command. For the purpose of Lieutenant-General Krassnik; but the reports relative to the concentration of troops, which are to be conveyed by the flotilla of the Caspian Sea to Astrabad, "are totally unfounded."

DENMARK.

The commissioners of the different Governments which have concerned themselves with the Sound Dues question (says a letter from Berlin in *Le Nord*), are to meet at Copenhagen very speedily, and conclude the negotiations upon it by drawing up a convention for the redemption of the Sound Dues; and the convention, in all probability, will be finally ratified before the navigation is opened in the spring. The commissioner on behalf of Russia, M. Tegoborski, has just left Berlin on his way to attend this conference.—With regard to the transit dues levied by Denmark upon the traffic between Hamburg and Lubeck, the same correspondent says he is informed that the Danish Cabinet is disposed to reduce these dues by one half.

BELGIUM.

The discussion in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives on the bill relative to exportation and importation of articles of food has terminated by a sort of compromise, the Government proposing to maintain in force until the 15th of February the present legislation, in order to allow the Senate to express its opinion on the question. This proposition was adopted by 50 votes to 81.

A tutor, named Vervae, is now on his trial in Belgium on a charge of stealing from the private chamber of the Count de Liedekerke, with whom he was domesticated at the time (between three and four years ago), the sum of 102,000 francs. Subsequently to the robbery, he lived in great extravagance. The trial is causing as much sensation in Belgium as certain cases of fraud have recently done in England. The man is also accused of cheating one of the countess's *femmes de chambre* of the greater part of three thousand francs. The trial is not yet completed.

TURKEY.

It is stated in intelligence from Constantinople that Ferouk-Khan transmitted Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's Ultimatum to Teheran on the 8th. The Ultimatum, according to these advices, demands a revision of the treaties with Persia, the evacuation of Herat, authority to found factories along the coasts of the Persian Gulf, and the concession to an English company of certain railways to be made across the Persian territory. Persia is supported by Russia in demanding neutrality from Turkey; but England demands permission for the pas-

sage of troops across Turkish territory.—The Imaum of Muscat has refused to pay his annual tribute to Persia.

In order to regulate the State expenditure, Redschid Pacha has determined on establishing an audit board. It is also contemplated to impose forest laws and a special administration of the State forests, according to the European mode, in order that the extensive woods in various parts of Turkey, which appear now to be the property of any one who likes to cut timber from them, may be turned into a source of Imperial revenue.

SWITZERLAND.

Prussia has refused to treat directly with Switzerland. All the Federal staff officers of Switzerland have been ordered to return to their posts immediately. Twenty thousand men are to be put under arms without delay. One half, under General Bourgeois, will be stationed at Basle; the other half, under General Ziegler, at Schaffhausen. The van and reserve are to be in readiness to take the field. The Grand Council of Berne has unanimously granted unlimited credits for the purposes of war. The students of Zurich have volunteered to serve in the active army. The popular enthusiasm increases.

The object of the preparations that have been made up to this time by Prussia, is to have 185,000 men in march on the 2nd of January. The Prussian troops are formed into nine divisions, of which each *corps d'armée* furnishes one. These nine divisions are concentrated into four corps, supported by a division of reserve. Count Groben is appointed Commander-in-Chief; the Commandants of corps are Generals Werder, Wussow, Borin, and Schack. The Prince of Hohenzollern commands the division of reserve, and the division of the Guard, in the first corps, is under the command of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia.

It is said that Switzerland, at the suggestion of the American Minister, has consented to refer the dispute to arbitration.

The writer of a Paris letter in *Le Nord* affirms as positive that Prussia has already obtained the authorization of Wurtemberg and of Baden for her troops to pass through those states, in order to take military possession of Schaffhausen. It is not necessary to have that authorization further confirmed by the Diet—in the first place, because Prussia acts in her own personal name; and next, because she has already received the approbation of that body.

The *Anklage-Kammer*, or Court of Preliminary Investigation, at Berne, found bills of indictment against sixty-six of the accused conspirators, on the 16th; fourteen of them were placed in the second category, that of those whose cases are to be reserved; and two of them—namely, Count Pourtales Gorgier, and M. Perrot, the advocate, formerly president of the *Statthalter* of Neuchâtel—were acquitted. Several others were conditionally liberated on bail—namely, Heinrich von Rougemont, Edward von Pourtales Pury, and Augustus de Montemolin, each of whom was to find bail to the amount of 50,000 francs; Karl Friedrich Sauvin, a clergyman, and Philip Grevillat, to find bail each for five hundred francs; and Carl Augustus Matthey de l'Etang, a member of the Federal Council, placed in the second category of those whose cases are reserved, was released without bail. This second category includes all who only took a subordinate part in the insurrection, to the number of several hundred persons.

Colonel Denzler, who is in command of the Federal troops which occupy Neuchâtel, has written to the Swiss representative at Paris a complete denial of the statements of the *Assemblée Nationale* about the oppressed condition of the inhabitants of that canton. The Neuchâtel prisoners have also, without exception, testified to the humane and considerate treatment they have experienced. A civic guard is about to be formed in Neuchâtel, that the Federal troops may be withdrawn.

M. Pourtales Sandoz, the Neuchâtel insurrectionist, has been allowed to remain at his own house on account of ill health and of his age, which is considerable; but a military guard is placed over him, and he is kept a strict prisoner. Some of the other insurgents, as we announced last week, have been liberated on bail.

PRUSSIA.

Privy Councillor Mathias has laid on the table of the House of Deputies of the Landtag an address to the Crown, which he intends to submit to the vote of the Assembly, complaining that the practice observed by the police towards the press is not in harmony with the liberty of the press as established by the constitution.

AUSTRIA.

Count Croudenhoven, Secretary of Legation, left on the 16th inst. for Paris with despatches for Baron Hüblner, containing a verbal note which the latter is to submit to the French Government, and which replies negatively to the question of granting a compensation to Russia for the abandonment of Boigrad. The idea of this compensation, it is stated, was not advanced by Russia, who as yet has not approved of it, but by France, who communicated it to England and afterwards to Austria. Both of these Powers refuse to entertain the idea.

The Empress is said to be indisposed, and she will therefore not go to Milan, even if her husband does, which is doubtful. Supposing the Emperor to go, he will stop, it is said, but for a very short time.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

THE CONDEMNED ITALIAN SEAMEN.

SIR GEORGE GREY has refused to spare the lives of the three Italian seamen who were convicted at the Winchester Assizes on a charge of murder on the high seas. The Mayor of Southampton (who is also a Town Councillor of Winchester) has pleaded for them, but in vain. Mr. Dymond then addressed a communication to Sir George Grey, praying that Pietrici (who spared the life of the boy who afterwards gave evidence against the condemned men) may receive mercy. This request was also refused. Lagava has since admitted that he was guilty. He did this very suddenly, exclaiming to Signor Ferretti, an Italian Protestant gentleman who had interested himself in the culprits, "I have five murders on my soul." This he explained by saying that he was not only the chief of the assassins, but had induced the others to aid him, and had thus led to their disgraceful end. He said that he "dragged them into it by the hair of their heads." Matteo Pietrici, on learning that all hope of a respite was at an end, became greatly excited, and, dropping on his knees, implored in the most impassioned manner that his life might be saved, adding that he would willingly be a slave for the remainder of his existence. He also said he was guilty, but added that he was struck, and acted in self-defence. He denied that he had any design to plunder the ship, but continued, after a short pause:—"I am a murderer. Two years ago, I killed three persons at Trieste—one a woman with whom I cohabited, and two gendarmes who were sent to arrest me. I also attempted to commit a murder in Constantinople; but the person I attacked escaped by jumping into the water and swimming away." He also said he thought he was the worst man that had ever lived, and that he had actually drunk the blood of the woman he had killed at Trieste. Giovanni Barbaalo suffered greatly on learning that he was to die. He received the last sacraments on Monday evening from Dr. Grant, Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, who went to Winchester from London on purpose.

The following letter was addressed by the convicts to the captain and crew of the barque *Globe*:—

"Winchester Prison, Dec. 22.

"Dear Friends,—Since we have offended you, pardon us, as we pardon you heartily. Jesus Christ pardoned those who put Him on the cross. The Lord has been merciful towards us, and we hope that He will also be merciful towards you. We shall not see each other any more in this world, but may God grant we may see each other again in heaven. Embrace for us George Nelligan.

"†MATTEO PIETRICI,
"†GIUSEPPE LAGAVA,
"†GIOVANNI BARBAALO.

"Foster Rogers, } Witnesses."
"S. Ferretti,

Nelligan is the boy whose evidence at the trial mainly contributed to the conviction of the murderers.

On the morning of the execution (Tuesday), the convicts all exhibited great emotion, and prayed frequently aloud, though Pietrici, while calling himself a Roman Catholic, evinced a preference for Protestant rites and doctrines. He ate a hearty breakfast, saying that he did so for the purpose of sustaining himself at the last moment. During the whole time the pinioning was going on (say the accounts from Winchester in the daily papers), Lagava and Barbaalo repeated aloud the "Kyrie Eleison," and other prayers. At one period, Lagava directed the attention of Pietrici to the priest, but the latter replied, "The priest did not die for me; Christ died for me." Pietrici was the first to be led on to the scaffold. As soon as Calcraft had placed him under the fatal beam, the most painful excitement was occasioned among the crowd assembled in front of the gaol by the culprit exclaiming in a loud shrill voice, which resounded across the valley overlooked by the prison, "*Gesù Cristo, piglia l'anima mia!*" and other phrases of a similar character, which, not being understood by the multitude, were believed to be cries of distress and protestations of innocence. Lagava was brought up next, and no sooner had he been placed near his fellow culprit than his voice was raised in protestations to the Virgin Mary and the saints. Terrible as was the scene up to this point, it was infinitely more painful when Barbaalo appeared on the drop. This wretched youth was greatly excited, and could not be induced to submit himself quietly to the executioner. He appealed to the priests, and they, in their anxiety to give the dying men consolation, placed themselves in positions which obliged Calcraft to call upon them to remove, or it would be impossible for him to perform his office. This was done in a tone loud enough to be heard by the crowd below, from whom a murmur of "Shame!" arose, probably as much from the length of time already occupied in affixing the nooses and splicing the ropes round the cross-beam—a clumsy operation which, with the improved example of the metropolitan prison of Newgate open to them, is a disgrace to all the country justices who tolerate it—as from any other cause. At length, after thirteen minutes had elapsed from the period of Pietrici appearing on the scaffold, during the whole of which time the culprits

were exclaiming in Italian at the top of their voices and in tones which created the most painful excitement among all who heard them, the drop fell, and in a few moments the bodies of the men were hanging lifeless.

Mr. George Bowyer has written to the *Times* to complain that a system of proselytism was adopted towards the unhappy men by the chaplain and other authorities of Winchester gaol. According to this gentleman, the love of life was so strong in the convicts, especially Pietrici, that they renounced their former faith in the belief that by becoming Protestants they would propitiate the Government and lead to a commutation of their sentence. They had been provided with two priests of their own faith; but the chaplain brought in the interpreter Ferretti, formerly a Roman Catholic, but now a Protestant, and through him made a perpetual crusade against the faith of the foreign prisoners. "The effects of these efforts, and of the terror of death and the hope of clemency," says Mr. Bowyer, "soon became visible. Barbaalo received the priest (the Rev. Mr. Stone) with declarations against Roman Catholic doctrines, and then, with curses and blasphemy, and imprecations, and shocking gestures, he afterwards refused to see the priest. The others showed symptoms of the same altered state of mind. The priests could bring them to no feeling of repentance or devotion. Their thoughts and hopes were all bent on this world. Their faith in their own religion had been shaken, but they had not been brought to repentance by the chaplain. Then came the final answer from the Home-office, that they must die. The wretched men were thunderstruck. Barbaalo, finding that there was no hope of a respite, sent for the priest (the Rev. Mr. Stone). Two Italian priests also attended, Dr. Fan di Bruno and Dr. Baldisconi, and by the joint efforts of the Roman Catholic clergy Barbaalo and Lagava were brought to repentance, and to receive the rites of the Church on the very day before their execution." Not so Pietrici; but it is said, according to Mr. Bowyer, that he did, in fact, after all, go out of the world a Roman Catholic. "An application," continues Mr. Bowyer, "had previously been made through me to the Home-office, praying that under the circumstances some further time might be allowed for the miserable men to prepare for death. But this was refused, on the ground that there was no precedent for it—a rather strong instance of the red-tape system!"

THE WINTER ASSIZES.

George Ball pleaded Guilty at Lewes to a charge of breaking into the house of Colonel Windham at Brighton, and stealing a workbox and other articles. While waiting for trial at the Lewes prison, he simulated madness so successfully that he deceived two medical men and three of the visiting justices, and a certificate was about to be signed for his removal to a lunatic asylum, when he imprudently made a confidant of one of his fellow-prisoners, and admitted that his conduct was all a sham, and thus the attempted deception was discovered. He was convicted of robbery at Leicester in 1851, was sentenced to ten years' transportation, and removed to Dartmoor prison, where he remained for some time, and was then sent to Millbank prison. He there also feigned insanity, and succeeded in deceiving the medical officers of the prison, who certified that he was a lunatic, and he was removed to Bethlehem Hospital, where he remained two years, when he was supposed to be cured and was sent back to his old quarters at Millbank, whence he was discharged under a ticket of leave in April of the present year, and nothing more was heard of him from that time until the commission of the present offence. He was now sentenced to transportation for fifteen years.

James Cleut, a young man of nineteen, pleaded Guilty to a burglary at the house of a working man. It also appeared that he had set fire to the house, in order to conceal the first offence. He was condemned to six years' penal servitude.

Joseph Palmer pleaded Guilty to stealing a letter containing money. Mr. Cressy, who appeared for the prisoner, said he was instructed to state to the court that he had borne a respectable character up to the time of this transaction, and that he had on several occasions handed over property which had accidentally come out of letters in the office. He had also communicated to the Postmaster-General a plan he had devised for preventing the plunder of letters passing through the Post-office, and the Post-office authorities had communicated with him upon the subject. He hoped that the knowledge of these facts would induce the court to pass a more lenient sentence than was usually inflicted in cases of this kind. Mr. Baron Bramwell, however, sentenced him to four years' penal servitude.

Thomas Jupp, a boy of fourteen, was tried for a highway robbery, with violence, upon George Reed, and stealing from him threepence. Reed was a lad of the same age as the accused, and being one day out with a truck, in company with Jupp, the latter turned the truck into a ditch, and said that he would have Reed's money or his life. He then knocked the boy down, and took away the threepence already mentioned. It appeared that Jupp was already known as a bad character, and had once before been convicted of felony. He was therefore sentenced to one month's imprisonment, the last week to be passed in solitary confinement; after that, to be kept

five years in a reformatory, where his parents are to contribute towards his maintenance.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

William Olive, a painter, has been found Guilty of an indecent assault upon Elizabeth Spicer, a little girl only nine years of age, in the Regent's Park. Sentence was deferred.

Two women, named Jane Berry and Ann Butler, were brought up last Saturday from the House of Detention under the following circumstances:—On Tuesday week, two prisoners, named Casey and Sullivan, were convicted of a street robbery and sentenced to four years' penal servitude. When the prosecutor got into the hall of the building, he and the policeman were assailed by a number of persons, friends of the prisoners, with the most scandalous abuse. The two women now before the court were the principals in the matter; and their language, which was of a horrible description, brought the proceedings of the court to a standstill. They swore many oaths that the prosecutor should be murdered before night. The officers brought them before the Assistant-Judge, who, after taking evidence of what they had uttered, decided upon committing them for contempt. They were now brought up to be dealt with for that offence, and, after being severely reprimanded, they were ordered to be kept in prison eight days.

MORE FRAUDS ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Thomas Hogben, a clerk in the service of Messrs. Field, Son, and Wood, stockbrokers, of Warrford-court, Throgmorton-street, City, was brought up before the Clerkenwell magistrate, in the custody of Mr. Williams, the inspector of the Great Northern Railway, on the charge of being concerned with Leopold Redpath in the forgery of a signature to 1000*l.* 4½ per Cent. Consolidated Preference Stock of that line. Messrs. Field, Son, and Wood were the principal stockbrokers of Redpath, and upon their evidence and that of Mr. George Sydney Hammond, the adopted son of Redpath, the prosecution mainly relies. Mr. Morritt, the secretary of the company, having his suspicions aroused, looked into the transfer-book, and, ascertaining that Hogben had been the attesting witness to a document purporting to transfer 1000*l.* 4½ per Cent. Stock of the Great Northern Railway from Redpath to Mr. Stephen George Hammond, he went, in company of Mr. Williams, and took the accused into custody. The signature of Mr. Hammond was in the handwriting of Redpath; the attesting witness was Hogben, and he admitted that he had signed his name to the document, adding that he thought at the time the signature of Mr. Hammond was genuine. He was remanded till Wednesday; but bail was accepted. On that day, he was committed for trial, together with Redpath and Kent.

FORGERY.—Anthony Flood, a young man respectfully connected, was brought up at Southwark, charged with obtaining the sum of 10*l.* from Mr. Burrell, the landlord of the Bridge-house Hotel, Wellington-street, London-bridge, by means of a forged draught upon Messrs. M'Grigor and Co., Charles-street, St. James's, army agents, purporting to be drawn by Lieutenant James D. Dundas, of the 60th Rifles, at present stationed in Bengal. He was also charged with having several other forged draughts in his possession, and uttering some to various tavern-keepers at the West-end. He was remanded for a week.

MORE HANGING.—Calcraft, last Saturday, hung William Jackson at Chester, for the murder of his two children. The man died with many expressions of penitence. The last previous execution at Chester was as many as eight years ago.

PLUNDERING A WRECK.—Six men were charged, a few days ago, at the Arklow Petty Sessions, with attempting to plunder the cargo of a vessel named the *Irrawaddy*, which was stranded on the Blackwaterbank on the night of the 18th of October. It was proved that four hundred or five hundred armed men, among whom were the accused, went to the place where the vessel was stranded, threatened the captain, and succeeded in taking off a part of the cargo. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 50*l.* on each, or, in default, six months' imprisonment.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY A WOMAN.—A young woman, named Emma Jones, was charged at the Thames police-office with attempting self-destruction. A policeman was called into the shop of a chemist and druggist in Shadwell, where the woman had asked to be supplied with some poison, and been refused. She was very ill, and admitted having already taken threepennyworth of sugar-of-lead, which she had purchased at different shops. According to a statement made by the gaoler of the court, the poor creature had been on the town ever since she was eleven years of age; but he had never known her to be disorderly. The policeman was directed to take her to an asylum, and to see after her comforts.

THE MURDERER, DEDEA REDANIES.—The trial of Dedea Redanies for the murder of the two girls, Maria and Caroline Back, has taken place, and has ended in the accused being found Guilty and sentenced to death. The particulars of this extraordinary case were fully narrated in the *Leader* of August 9th and 23rd. The man seems to be of disordered intellect; as a proof of which, it may be mentioned that he recently gave to the person ap-

pointed to watch over him a pencil drawing of the murderer, as a 'memento.' It is done on a sheet of common newspaper, and is divided into two 'scenes,' representing respectively the murder of each girl. On the one side is seen the figure of a woman lying on the ground under a palm-tree, with blood issuing from wounds in her bosom; while above is the representation of an angel, who is supposed to be conveying the soul of the girl to heaven. The rising sun is depicted in the background; and, as the murder was committed shortly before five o'clock in the morning, this is probably a faithful representation of the scene. There is an inscription underneath of "Farewell, my dear Maria—Dedea Redanies." On the other half of the sheet is represented the death of Caroline, the murderer's sweetheart; and here the girl is drawn as leaning upon a soldier (himself), who has his left arm round her waist, and his right hand in hers, "bidding her an eternal farewell," as the convict himself expressed it. Blood is seen issuing from wounds in her bosom; on the ground is the knife, covered with blood, while above are the palm-tree and angel, as in the other case. The inscription here is, "Death of Caroline Back, from Dedea Redanies, of 5th August, 1856. Farewell, my dear Caroline." Redanies has entirely recovered from the wounds which he gave himself on being apprehended. The local papers report that he has got quite stout. That is to say, he has been fattened and made healthy for the gallows. He is to be hung on New Year's Day, and Mansell, the soldier, will suffer at the same time.

THE OUTRAGE AT BRIGHTON.—Charles Henrich, the young gentleman charged at Brighton with stabbing a woman in the streets, was again brought up last Saturday, when the injured girl gave her evidence against him, and he was committed for trial. The girl is progressing favourably, but was still in great pain when at the police-office. The youth was tried at Lewes on Tuesday, and found Guilty, on which the judge sentenced him to one year's hard labour.

CHARGE OF FRAUD AND FORGERY AGAINST A POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.—The North Shields superintendent of police, Mr. Robert Mitchell, has suddenly disappeared, and is charged by the watch committee with fraud and forgery. In consequence of suspicious circumstances which had transpired, the committee determined to examine his accounts, but, immediately before they closed their first evening's sitting, the superintendent made off. The committee have discovered that Mr. Mitchell has forged the names of several of the fire brigade and of the police force to pay-sheets, and appropriated the money to his own use.

MERTHYR TYDVIL STABBING CASE.—Joseph Pearce, who was savagely attacked on the night of the 16th inst., has expired in great agony from the injuries received.

A DANGEROUS HOAX.—Several of the West Riding papers give an account of the shooting of a burglar by a woman who believed her house was about to be attacked by robbers. It turns out that no robbery was intended, but only a joke. A surgeon who lives in the neighbourhood of the woman's residence was in the habit of paying visits to her occasionally. He was on some such errand on the morning of Friday week at about two o'clock, and was followed by two or three bonnet-companions, who had been spending the evening with him, and who made their appearance just as he was endeavouring to obtain admittance to the woman's house. She, being alarmed at the noise they made, opened her chamber window, and, hearing them say something about going round to the back door, fired a bullet at one of the intruders, who instantly fell, and was soon afterwards removed by his comrades. The wounded man is the surgeon alluded to, and he is rather seriously injured in the neck, where the contents of the pistol principally lodged.

SMUGGLING TOBACCO.—A man named William Gory has been examined before the magistrates at Southampton on a charge of having smuggled twenty-six hundred-weight of tobacco at the village of Woodmill, about three miles distant. A large quantity having been seized a short time since, an officer of the customs at Southampton went to the house of Gory, and commenced a search. When the latter was accused of concealing the tobacco on his premises, he admitted having done so, but was very sorry, and offered to show the officer where the smuggled property was hidden. He therefore took him to his bedroom, where, behind a partition, thirty-two bales of cured tobacco were found, and in another part of the room a bale of stalk, which Gory said he had placed there to dry. Besides these, the officer discovered in the house not less than fifty-one tin cases filled with tobacco, and one with shag. On being interrogated as to how he obtained possession of these, Gory replied that he had taken charge of them at the request of some persons who said the roads were so bad that they could not travel with the tobacco; but he (Gory) greatly repented having done so. His solicitor in court argued that the accused had not committed the act with any intention of defrauding the customs, but had merely done it in thoughtless compliance with the request which had been made to him. After a brief deliberation, the magistrates said that they saw no reason for mitigating the penalty in the least degree, and therefore convicted Gory in the full amount of 185*l.* 5*s.*

FRAUDS IN THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.—The Board

of Guardians have recently discovered a series of extensive frauds committed by a clerk of the City Union named Paul, and by a parochial rate-collector of the name of Manini, in consequence of which a committee of emergency has been appointed to inquire into the matter. The investigation related chiefly to Paul, who has for the last twelve years been carrying on many fraudulent transactions of a very serious character. The Board has engaged one of the most experienced officers of the detective police to trace out and apprehend both the culprits, for whose capture a reward of 100*l.* has been offered; and notices have been issued in several of the City parishes warning the ratepayers to abstain from paying any more parochial rates until they receive further orders from the Board. Mr. Rowsell, clerk to the guardians of the poor, has been suspended, though it is not stated that he participated in the frauds.

A SOLICITOR IN A MESS.—In the course of some investigations in the Bankruptcy Court into the affairs of Daniel Greenaway Porter, a wine-merchant, it was alleged that the petition for adjudication was obtained under suspicious circumstances, and that a debt on an I O U had been proved against the estate by one William Snell, at the instigation of Mr. George Marshall, solicitor, of Sion College-gardens. An adjourned meeting took place on Monday, when Mr. Marshall denied that he had had any previous conversation with Snell; but he objected to answer a question whether or not he had had any conversation with the bankrupt. Later in the proceedings, however, he denied the truth of the statements of the bankrupt and of a Mr. Bird, who asserted that Mr. Marshall had said "debts must be made." When exculpating himself before the commissioner, Mr. Marshall stated that "a Mr. William Duvall, commercial traveller, was the only other creditor who had proved a debt. The signature 'W. H. Duvall' produced was in his (Marshall's) own handwriting; but Duvall had himself affixed the second (or underneath) signature on the same paper. It was a mistake his affixing the first signature. Snell had acted as an attorney, and his (Snell's) name had been entered as such. He wished to add that he had never employed Snell on the bankrupt's behalf." A further adjournment was ordered.

MANSLAUGHTER BY A CABMAN.—A cabman has been charged at the Marylebone police-office with causing the death of a young woman who was riding in his vehicle with her sister. The evidence gone into was given at great length, but the facts of the case are briefly these:—On the previous night, the cabman, who was drunk, was driving his cab along the New-road, having in it two women, and came into collision with another cab. He was thrown off his seat and lay in the mud stunned, and the horse, which was left to itself, ran away at a furious rate. When near Baker-street, the cab came into collision with an omnibus, which was going to the City, and by the concussion the pole of the omnibus was forced into the cab, and from the injuries which were inflicted the poor woman died within five minutes after being extricated from the cab. She was removed to the Marylebone Infirmary, where the body remains awaiting a coroner's inquest. It was further stated that the cabman was exceedingly violent on his way to the station-house, and that he swore repeatedly that, if he had a revolver, such as he had in the Crimea when he was in the Land Transport Corps, he would shoot the constables by whom he was taken, as he did a sergeant in the Crimea, owing to whom he was flogged. He was remanded till Monday next, upon which day a surgeon from the institution will be in attendance.

GAROTTING IN OXFORD STREET.—A singularly audacious instance of garotting is related by a correspondent of the *Times*, who writes:—"Last evening (Sunday), between eight and nine o'clock, a young lady was returning home from church. Her way lay along Oxford-street, and she took the quiet south side, apprehending no danger in such a crowded thoroughfare. Just as she was passing Laurie and Marners's coach manufactory, a man, whom she had noticed for some time dodging alongside of her, suddenly seized her by the arms, and plumed them behind her back. At the same moment, another fellow rushed forward, apparently to assist in rifling her. The lady's terror was so great that she could not call out; but, fortunately, at this instant, a policeman turned into Oxford-street from one of the small streets, and the vagabonds immediately ran across the street, where they mingled with the crowd, and disappeared. The young lady was brought home in a cab, half-dead with terror and agitation."—Another outrage still more daring is also communicated to the *Times* by a correspondent. The event occurred at about half-past three o'clock, P.M., at a house in Curzon-street, Mayfair, and the facts are thus related:—"A man came to the house with a parcel which he said was to be left there; the woman in charge of the house told him it was a mistake; he then pushed by her and said it must be left; when inside, he shut the door, and he immediately endeavoured to strangle her by placing his arm tightly round her neck; she managed, however, to get the door open and scream loudly, which caused the ruffian to decamp."—An attempt to rob an old lady in Tooley-street, Southwark, by means of the garotting process, has failed. About twelve o'clock at night, a Mrs. Anderton was passing by one of the railway arches, when a man

seized her by the throat, which he twice heavily struck, and then grasped hold of her victorine with the intention of stealing it. Her sister, who was with her at the time, screamed loudly; on which the fellow, being frightened, ran away, but was pursued by a gentleman who was passing, and caught. When brought before the Southwark magistrate, the man said, in answer to the charge, that he was struck first by the lady, who called him very bad names, and then he took hold of her victorine and struck her. Mrs. Anderton denied that she ever saw the man until he pounced upon and nearly strangled her. He was committed to prison for three months, with hard labour.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS.—Three convicts, named James Taylor, James Wright, and Joseph Wright, escaped on Monday night from the Defence hospital hulk, having first obtained possession of the gig belonging to the commander of the vessel (Captain Warren), in which it is supposed they sailed down the river in order to land at a secluded spot.

MURDEROUS ASSAULTS.—A case of murderous assault was heard before the Bow-street magistrate on Monday. A man named Regan picked a quarrel with one Anderson, who is employed in a fish shop in Lincoln-court, Drury-lane, and struck him. On the following day, he went again to the shop, and boasted of the act, swearing that he would have Anderson's life before night. The master of the shop sent for a policeman; on which, Regan went into his own house, a few doors off, provided himself with a knife and bludgeon, and threatened to "rip open" any one who interfered with him. The policeman who had been summoned, knowing the desperate character of the man, went away for assistance, and returned with another constable. When they arrived, Regan struck Anderson with the bludgeon, and then cried out, "Where is the policeman who will take me?" Thorne, the first constable fetched, said he would do so, and immediately closed with the ruffian. The other officer was at this moment attacked by some of Regan's companions, and was unable to render any assistance. Regan, therefore, was enabled to make a stab at Thorne with the knife, but the blow was stopped by the metal button of the policeman's under coat. Both the constables were then ill-treated by the disreputable characters who had assembled, and Regan was rescued. Subsequently, however, he was again arrested on a warrant, and has been fully committed.—Daniel Sullivan, a big Irishman, was charged at Bow-street with an unprovoked attack upon William Draper, a market gardener. He pushed Draper down into the road in Long Acre, and nearly caused him to be run over by his own cart; and, when he remonstrated, Sullivan threw a large stone or brick at him, which struck him on the forehead and again felled him. The scoundrel then beat him over the head with the whip till he was insensible. Sullivan was afterwards apprehended by a policeman, and he has been twice remanded.

THE KNIFE.—Emanuel Cooper, a Portuguese seaman, has been examined before the Thames magistrate and committed for trial on a charge of cutting William Robinson, a coalwhipper.

CRIME IN DEVONSHIRE.—The inhabitants of the town of Newton-Abbot, South Devon, were much interested last week by the apprehension of a gang of burglars who have been committing numerous depredations in the locality for some months past. The chief of this gang is John Bray, a ticket-of-leave man, and the other four prisoners are John Hockings, Sarah Brown, and John and William Brown, her two sons.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.—The daughter of a Mr. Garland, a timber merchant residing at Banbury, was left by her sister on the railway-bridge on Friday week, in company with a large Newfoundland dog. She did not return home when expected, and the family became alarmed. These apprehensions were afterwards increased by the return of the dog, saddened with wet and mire. Saturday passed over without any tidings; but in the middle of Sunday the young lady's body was found in the river Cherwell, about a quarter of a mile from where she was last seen. Miss Garland was about eighteen years of age.

IMPOSTURE.—Thomas Hay, a square-built and rather corpulent person, apparently about fifty years of age, and described in the police-sheet as a gentleman, residing in St. Mary's-square, Kennington, was placed at the bar of the Mansion House charged with attempting to extort money by threatening language. He was also charged with obtaining money by false pretences. A few days ago, he went to the house of a Mr. Greatrex, a surgeon in Holborn, and told a rambling story about Major Harvey, a friend of his, who had been upset from a carriage, and seriously hurt. This he followed up by a request that Mr. Greatrex would lend him "just a little small silver, to save him the trouble of going to the West-end," for which he offered to give a cheque for 10*l.* Mr. Greatrex recollected that a similar story had been told him some time before by the applicant, and he therefore warned him not to call again, or he would be given into custody. The man then became abusive, and was handed over to the care of the police. It was shown that he was an old impostor, and he was remanded.—A gipsy woman, named Jones, has been charged at Southwark with obtaining money under false pretences. She went into a cheesemonger's shop in the

London-road, and offered to tell fortunes. Very speedily she succeeded in duping the sister of the master of the shop, and a young man who served, though the latter at first said "he didn't want any of her nonsense." The result was that the young woman has been quite insane since, owing to what the gipsy had told her. The accused was remanded for a week.—Elizabeth Gaine, an elderly woman, is under remand at the Mansion House, on a charge of obtaining money from Mr. Casanova, of the Stock Exchange, by pretending to be in distress, and presenting a letter of recommendation which purported to come from the Rev. Mr. Jenkinson, vicar of Battersea.—Michael Hyams is also under remand at the same office, charged with defrauding George Forbes, the master of a brig, from Sunderland, by selling him for 3*l.* a chain which he professed to be gold, but which was, in fact, sham, and not worth more than half-a-crown. Hyams, with astounding impudence, said that Mr. Forbes had cheated him by only giving 3*l.* for the chain; that he did not wish to sell it, and therefore told Mr. Forbes that he (Hyams) had stolen it, thinking that would make him give up the idea of purchase; but that, nevertheless, he would have it. When Hyams was told he was remanded, he said:—"Why, my lord, am I to be detained? What have I done? He has certainly committed an offence, but I have not. He is a purchaser of stolen goods. At least, he thought he was, and that's as bad." The Lord Mayor told the accused that, as he had himself confessed to having stolen the chain, he must be remanded to ascertain to whom it really belongs.

MURDER AT LEEDS.—An Irishman, named Riley, has murdered another Irishman, named Burns, at Leeds, by striking him (apparently without provocation) so violent a blow on the head with a heavy wooden stool that the skull was smashed. This occurred as long ago as the 20th of last July; but Burns lingered for five weeks, and then expired. An inquest was opened, adjourned from time to time, and only concluded last Monday. A verdict of Wilful Murder was returned against Riley, who has absconded.

FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.—A boy, fifteen years of age, employed in agricultural pursuits near Alfreton, has been frightened to death by a trick which was played off upon him by two youths, one about the same age, and the other twenty, who personated a ghost in a field, and threw the other boy into such a state of nervous excitement, that, after suffering for some days with delirium, during which he raved of what he had seen, he expired. The coroner's jury has returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the chief of the ghost personators.

BURGLARY.—Two men are in custody, and under remand, charged with the burglary at the house of Mr. Bradley, near Sheffield, the particulars of which appeared in the *Leader* of December 18th.—A burglary was committed about ten days ago at the residence of Lieutenant Stokes, Royal Engineers, Fermoey. One of the thieves left behind him a pair of trousers, in exchange for a pair of the Lieutenant's, which he carried off. This was the cause of his apprehension. In the pockets of the garments a document was found purporting to be the discharge of Patrick Shea from the West Cork Artillery. The police knew Patrick Shea as an expert pickpocket; and he was speedily arrested, together with another man.

MR. JUSTICE WILLES UPON TRANSPORTATION.—Two men, named Tombs and Parsons, were convicted at Warwick Assizes, on Monday, of burglary at Birmingham. It appeared they had been old offenders, and sentenced to four years' penal servitude in 1855 at the Birmingham Sessions, but the officers of the prison were ignorant of the reason for their being set at liberty before the expiration of their period of punishment. In passing sentence, Mr. Justice Willes made some observations on the ticket-of-leave system *versus* transportation. He remarked:—"I think it is a great hardship upon men who have lost their character by being sentenced to penal servitude to let them loose in a country where persons will not employ them. I cannot understand why, either for the sake of the public or the sake of yourselves, you, having been sentenced to four years' penal servitude in January, 1855, should be let out to commit fresh depredations, in the same town as before, in August, 1856. Those who did that act may to themselves justify the proceeding; but for my part I cannot justify it, nor can I follow the example set by those persons, for facts have proved the proceeding to be fallacious and injurious to criminals and to the public. You two young fellows are well able to earn an honest livelihood, and I heartily wish that you could. I hope, for the sake of the convicts themselves, that we may return to a system which sends them out to a colony where labour is in great demand, and where they may (as many transports have done) regain good characters and become useful members of society. In order to give you a chance of being sent to such a place, in the event of the former system being renewed—as many persons, together with myself, fervently hope it will be—I shall sentence you to be transported for twenty years."—The subjoined announcement appears in the *Morning Star*:—"We hear that orders were issued on Tuesday from the Home Office for the police to make strict inquiries into the habits of the convicts now out on tickets of leave, as it is the intention of Government to revoke the licences of all those who have

returned to their old associations and habits, and to make them serve the remainder of their sentence. All ticket-of-leave convicts who have removed from the locality to which their license restricts them are to be sent back to their convict prisons."

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN AT BOARDING-SCHOOLS.—Mr. Carter, coroner for East Surrey, concluded on Tuesday an adjourned inquest respecting the death of the child named Maria Bailey, which, as alleged, had been caused by ill-treatment and starvation at a school kept by Mrs. Mears, or Myers, at Battersea. The general evidence, confirmed by that of Mr. Richardson, a surgeon of Battersea, proved that the cause of death was insufficient and improper food, want of clothing, and neglect of cleanliness. The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the mistress of the school.

THE HOLT RABBIT CASE.—Lord Hastings and the Holt magistrates (with one exception) appear to be still unaware of the real character of the position they have chosen in relation to the rabbit warren called the "Lows." On Saturday, two men named John Hacon and Francis Dugate were charged with trespassing in search of rabbits on the ground in question, and fined 1s. each and costs—12s. 3d. each—with fourteen days' imprisonment in default of payment. About 14l. has been received for the benefit of the families of the men first convicted.

"LORD COLVILL" AGAIN.—Colvill George Colvill, the man who, about a year ago, created for himself great notoriety by pretending to be Lord Colvill, was charged at Guildhall on Tuesday with illegally conveying a pint of gin into Whitecross-street prison. He was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment.

THE BAL MASQUE.—Several 'gentlemen' have been fined for drunkenness and disorderly conduct at Jullien's Masque Ball on Monday evening.

A BRAVE WOMAN.—An extraordinary instance of courage exhibited by a woman has occurred at Great Horton, near Bradford, Yorkshire. The house of Mr. Samuel Blamires, a farmer and a feeble old man of seventy, was attacked by a gang of burglars last Saturday night. Miss Blamires, having received notice that some suspicious characters were hanging about the premises, had recently been in the habit of setting up late at night; and on Saturday night she did not go to bed till one o'clock. Shortly after she had entered her room, she heard a noise in the parlour beneath, and, arming herself with an iron bar, she descended. A small amount of gas was burning in the room, by means of which Miss Blamires saw some one trying to enter through the window. She turned the gas on fully, and advancing towards the head of the man, which was already through the aperture, dealt it five blows with the bar. The man was completely jammed in the window, so that it was some time before he could be drawn off. In the meanwhile, one of the men was heard to exclaim, "Damn thee, Jack! cudgel her!" Next morning, a great deal of blood was found about the place, and portions of hair and scalp were seen adhering to the iron bar.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH HIGHWAYMEN.—Mr. Ward, an innkeeper of Sheffield, was on his way home on Tuesday evening, about five o'clock, when he was stopped by a man who asked if he had any money. He said he had; when the man rejoined, "You must give it to me." Mr. Ward said he would, if he was not ill-used. The thief promised, and Mr. Ward proceeded to unbutton his outer coat; but this was merely to divert attention, for he suddenly struck the fellow a heavy blow on the head with a stick, bringing him senseless to the ground. Another man then hurried up, and a struggle followed, in which Mr. Ward subdued his antagonist, and, releasing himself, got safely away.

HIGHWAY ROBBERIES IN YORKSHIRE.—Several highway robberies, accompanied by violence, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, are reported in the local papers.

ABDUCTION IN IRELAND.—Three men have been charged at the Carlow Petty Sessions with carrying off a young woman, named Catharine Hurrihan, from her parents. From the evidence of the girl herself, who is only eighteen, it appeared that last Saturday morning, about six o'clock, she was proceeding to Carlow in a donkey-cart, accompanied by her mother and grandmother. When a short distance from Carlow, her attention was arrested by observing a covered car secreted under a railway bridge, near which were three men. On coming near to the vehicle, one of the prisoners (Dunne), who was a servant in her father's employment, approached and dragged her off the car. In his efforts to do so, she pulled her grandmother along with her. She screamed for help, but her parents, being overpowered by the other men, they were unable to give any assistance. Dunne was unable by himself to force her into the car, but was assisted by a person whose name she did not know. When flung into the car, Dunne followed her, closing the door behind him, whereupon the driver, whose name is Keefe, drove off as fast as he could, the third person holding back her mother and grandmother. She remained insensible until they arrived in Athy, a distance of ten miles. Her clothes were much torn and injured in the struggle. When they drove into Stradbally, three miles from Athy, Dunne and the car-driver, Keefe, partook of some breakfast, but she refused. Dunne, on her recovering her self-possession, frequently asked her to marry

him; but she declined indignantly to comply with his request.—The case not being clear against the third prisoner, he was discharged; the other two were committed for trial.

THE GREAT BULLION ROBBERY.—Pierce, Burgess, and Tester, were on Wednesday committed for trial on the charges arising out of the great bullion robbery of May, 1855. It is intended to petition in favour of a special session of the Central Criminal Court for trying the accused. They will probably be brought up on the 12th of January.

THE CONDEMNED CONVICT, HANNAH.—Earnest appeals have been addressed to Sir George Grey in favour of sparing the life of John Hannah, now lying under sentence of death for killing a woman with whom he had cohabited, but who had left him. The ground on which mercy is solicited is that Hannah is insane; and certainly a great deal of the evidence received at the trial would seem to warrant that opinion. A correspondent of the *Times* makes a similar plea for Mansell, the soldier who shot a comrade.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MURDER.—A murder was committed on the highway near Wiveliscombe, Somerset, about a dozen miles from Taunton, on Tuesday night. The fact was discovered about eleven o'clock by a man named Hayes, who, while walking home on the road between Langley and Ford, observed a horse and cart in the road without any attendant. On nearer approach, he saw the feet of a person hanging over the front of the cart, and further examination resulted in his finding the body of Thomas Aplin, a young man twenty-two years of age, employed as an agricultural labourer. He was quite dead, his throat having been cut so as nearly to sever the head from the body. A carpet-bag was found in the cart undisturbed; but the pockets had been turned out, and money carried away. A young man, named Nation, has been arrested under suspicion. He had been drinking with Aplin on the evening of the murder, till the latter was drunk; and they then left the tavern together, Aplin having previously showed his companions change for a 5l. note. When Nation was taken into custody, his clothes were found to be bloody, and a bloody stained clasp-knife was discovered in his pocket.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND ASSAULT.—Four men, named respectively Charles Williams, Denis Foley, John Bryant, and John Orme, were charged at the Southwark police-court with committing a murderous attack on Mr. Hogan, a government clerk, and stealing from him his watch and money. Mr. Hogan was returning home from Deptford, where he had been to transact some business connected with the Board of Works. When he arrived at the corner of the New Kent-road, he inquired of two women, whom he met, the nearest way to London-bridge, promising to 'treat' them if they would direct him. The women consented, and he therefore took them into a public-house, where they all had some wine and cakes. After they came out again, one of Mr. Hogan's companions pointed down Kent-street, telling him that that was the way to London-bridge, and he immediately proceeded in that direction, but had not gone far, when he suddenly felt some one grasp him by the neck from behind, and forcibly drag him backwards. At the same time another caught hold of his arms and pinioned him, while a third planted his knee on his chest and pressed his throat with his hand, forcing his tongue out of his mouth. Seeing this, one of the ruffians cut his tongue. Having completely disabled their victim, the men rifled his pockets of all the money they contained (about fifteen shillings), and stole his watch. They then made off, and when Mr. Hogan had sufficiently recovered from their attack, about twenty minutes afterwards, to proceed on his way, he gave information of the circumstance to the inspector at the Bermondsey station-house, as did likewise the two women whom he had previously met. The latter also corroborated Mr. Hogan's evidence before the magistrate in every respect, and one of them stated that Williams had threatened to stab her, upon hearing which the ruffian, who had formerly been a soldier in the Royal Artillery, but was drummed out for desertion, and was likewise suspected of being a ticket-of-leave man, immediately exclaimed, "This woman is in the robbery, and may the first drop of water I drink turn to aquafortis if she did not receive 5s. out of it." This statement the woman denied. Mr. Burcham discharged Orme, but remanded the other three prisoners for a week.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL has been for some time under repair by the Dean and Chapter, and very extensive works are being carried on there for the purpose of strengthening and restoring the sacred edifice. On Friday week, three men were engaged in one part of the work—repairing the south transept—when a terrible accident happened, being the second fatal occurrence at the cathedral within a few weeks. They had raised a scaffolding to a height of forty-five feet, and were occupied in raising it still higher. Short poles had been fixed into the wall, and upon these were rested a number of planks forming the scaffolding. The men were at work upon this scaffolding when one of the supporting poles suddenly broke, and the poor fellows fell to the

ground, the planks and other timbers falling upon them. It was not until some little while after that the accident was discovered; but the men were then speedily rescued. One man died in the course of an hour or two, and the others are still lingering under the effect of very severe injuries.

The 'refinery' of an iron foundry at Leeds, the property of Mr. James Kitson, blew up last Saturday with a report which was heard at a distance of several miles. The building, at the time of the accident, contained about twenty-five cwt. of metal in a molten state, and the work appeared to have progressed satisfactorily until five minutes to eight, when two explosions were heard in rapid succession, and in a moment the brick chimney, the burning cinders, and boiling metal, were hurled into the air to a great height. Edward Dickenson (of Hummel), who was at the moment engaged in stirring the fire, was thrown some distance by a quantity of molten metal striking him upon the face and breast. He fell; almost instantly rose; but was knocked down again by the descending bricks and rubbish. Robert Barlow, another man working at the refinery, was scalded by the molten metal about the hands and thighs; but his injuries were not very serious, and he walked home. Dickenson, however, was found to be dreadfully hurt. He was conveyed as speedily as possible to the infirmary, where he lies in a precarious state. The cause of the accident is not precisely known.

While the Persia was coming to her moorings in the Mersey last Saturday afternoon, the captain suddenly spun round, and one of the bars struck the second officer, Mr. George Downing Stanley, in the abdomen, producing injuries of which he died on Sunday night. The deceased was one of the picked men of the service, to which his death is a great loss.

A painful accident has befallen M. Nothomb, the Belgian Minister of Justice, and his wife. Madame Nothomb having occasion to use a flask of ether, some of the liquid was spilt, took fire, and burnt her face severely, as well as her infant, whom she had in her arms. M. Nothomb, in attempting to extinguish the flames, was also much burnt.

The people of Edinburgh were startled on Wednesday morning by hearing of the sudden death of Mr. Hugh Miller, the well known writer on geology and editor of the *Witness* newspaper. Mr. Miller had been found lying dead on the floor of his bedroom, shot through the heart with a pistol bullet. That he died by his own hand there seems to be no doubt, but the circumstances under which the melancholy event happened do not lead to the supposition that his death was an act of intentional suicide. For some time past, Mr. Miller had been in a somewhat indifferent state of health, brooding, we believe, by over-study in the preparation of a new work on geology. He suffered from nervous excitement, and was under continual apprehension of his house being attacked by thieves. On this account he kept a pistol in his bedroom. Latterly, also, he had been unable to obtain any refreshing sleep; and the general opinion is, that his death resulted from accident.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday are all favourable. At Manchester, the transactions have been considerable, and quotations have been stimulated by the advance in cotton. At Birmingham, an improvement has occurred in the iron trade, owing to the export demand for railroad purposes, which seems to have removed all doubt of the existing scale of prices being maintained. In the general occupations of the place there has also been full employment, and in several instances much animation. The Nottingham advices state that the purchases, although limited, have been beyond the average usual at this season. In the woollen districts, there have been active requirements both on home and foreign account, and rates continue firm.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been increased activity. The total number of vessels reported inward was 271, showing an increase of 94 over the previous week. Among these were 16 with cargoes of sugar, and 56 with cargoes of corn, rice, and flour. The number of ships cleared outward was 112, including 16 in ballast, showing a decrease of 5. The total of vessels on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 63, being 18 more than in the last account. Of these, 7 are for Adelaide, 5 for Geelong, 2 for Hobart Town, 4 for Launceston, 2 for Melbourne, 1 for Moreton Bay, 8 for New Zealand, 18 for Port Philip, 1 for Portland Bay, and 15 for Sydney.—*Idem*.

In consequence of the course pursued by the Great Northern Railway with reference to some of their shares, the committee of the Stock Exchange have adopted the following resolution, which will be brought forward for confirmation next Monday:—"The committee having received evidence that the Great Northern Railway Company have refused to register transfers of stock accompanied by coupons officially signed by the registering clerk of the company and by the secretary, and for which stock certificates of due registration in the names of the sellers have been issued by the company's secretary, resolved unanimously,—That, there being no security in

the public under these circumstances, the committee will not recognise any further transactions in the Great Northern Railway Company's stocks or shares, nor of the stocks or shares of those other companies connected therewith, and order that the name of the Great Northern Railway Company, and of such other companies, be struck out of the official list of the Stock Exchange so long as such transfers shall remain unrecognized. "A meeting of the board of the Great Northern Railway was held on Tuesday, when, after discussion, it was resolved, "That the company have not refused to register the transfer of stock accompanied by coupons or certificates, officially signed by the registering clerk of the company and by the secretary; nor have they any intention to decline to register transfers of stock for which certificates of due registration in the names of the seller have been issued by the company, unless there is ground to believe the holder of such stock has been party to any fraud in the manner of obtaining it."

OBITUARY.

DR. PARIS.—The medical world, lovers of classical scholarship, and humanity at large, will grieve to learn the death of Dr. Paris, President of the College of Physicians, which occurred on Wednesday morning, at half-past eight o'clock, at his residence in Dover-street. He was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, 1785; commenced studying his profession at the fourteen years of age; was elected physician to the Westminster Hospital when he was only twenty-two; practised for a few years at Penzance in Cornwall, and finally settled in London, where, in 1844, he was elected President of the College of Physicians. When at Penzance, he gave to the miners his invention of the tamping bar, an instrument by which they are enabled to pursue their work in the midst of inflammable gases, without fear of striking fire from the rock. Dr. Paris was also famous as a classical scholar; and he was the author of a "Life of Sir Humphrey Davy," a work on "Medical Jurisprudence," (written in conjunction with Mr. Fomblaque), "Pharmacologia," "Philosophy in Sport," and some other books.

ADMIRAL SIR H. HART, K.C.H., Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, died on Monday morning at his apartment in the Queen's House at Greenwich.

THE MARQUESS OF QUEENSBERRY expired at Edinburgh on Friday week. He was in his seventy-eighth year. A vacancy for Dumfriesshire is caused by Lord Drumlaing's succession to the title.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

COURT-MARTIAL.—The result of a late court-martial at Gosport on Lieutenant Deane, of the 22nd Foot, was promulgated last Saturday. Lieutenant H. A. Murray Deane was brought to trial a few months ago on three charges, which were to the effect that he had wilfully failed to fulfil the terms of a written guarantee given by him voluntarily to the officers of her Majesty's 22nd Regiment while in India to pay them, six months after the landing of the regiment in England, all sums of money due from Paymaster Barlow; that he had abused the trust imposed in him as treasurer of the private funds belonging to the officers; and that, while acting paymaster, he had torn or destroyed a leaf or leaves from the officers' ledger containing the accounts of Paymaster Barlow, with a view to conceal the amount drawn and received by that officer. The court, though they acquitted Lieutenant Deane of any fraudulent intent, and admitted that he had appropriated all the lost funds to some, though not the right, regimental uses, nevertheless sentenced him to be cashiered. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief thereupon advised her Majesty not to confirm the sentence, because, however reprehensible Lieutenant Deane may have been for giving a guarantee which he could not perform, there was no moral turpitude in his conduct. The Queen was pleased not to confirm the sentence, and Lieutenant Deane was therefore acquitted. There is not even any formal reprimand superadded. It is stated that a court of inquiry, consisting of Major-General Breton, Lieutenant-Governor of Portsmouth and commanding the South-West district; Lieutenant-Colonel Eveleigh, commanding the 20th Regiment; and Lieutenant-Colonel Ingram, commanding the 97th Regiment, is ordered to report on the conduct of the other officers of the 22nd Regiment respecting the proceedings in reference to this case.

THE CITY MILITIA.—A Court of Lieutenancy for the City of London was held on Friday week, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, when the clerk and treasurer read a letter from Lord Panmure, Secretary for War, desiring that the militia regiment should be made up to its full complement of 1000 men, and suggesting that the present is a very suitable time for obtaining recruits. A second letter from the same quarter was read, ordering that the regiment should be embodied for training some time before the end of May. A resolution was then agreed to, appointing Friday, the 17th of next April, for calling out the men. A report was read from the Committee on Head-quarters, stating that they had entered into a contract for building new head-quarters, which would be completed by the end of next year. It was unanimously approved, and referred back to be carried into execution. The Court then adjourned.

GUNNERY EXPERIMENTS.—The result of the first experiment of Mr. Martin's missile (says a daily contemporary) was extraordinary. It took place against a wooden bulk-head erected for the purpose, the practice ranging a distance of six hundred yards. It so entirely succeeded, that the first and second shots set the erection on fire in several places, and so totally ignited it in the next three or four succeeding discharges, that it became a mass of flame, and continued burning until the following day. The effect of its destructive qualities was then tested against a similar erection of granite, and its havoc was as effective against that as against the wood; for in every portion of the stone where the molten liquid adhered the granite crumbled away like so much dry dust. Mr. Martin asserted, many months previously to the fall of Sebastopol, that he would compel the surrender of that or any other fortress in a week. But his representations were unheeded.

COLLISION IN THE CLYDE.—A serious collision took place last Saturday night on the Clyde, at a point about six miles below Glasgow, between the bark Felicity, grain-laden, from the Mediterranean, and the steamer Vanguard. The former was struck on the port bow, and a rent was made up to the foremast. She immediately filled, and settled down in a slanting direction across the channel, which at that point is very narrow, so that great obstruction was caused to the traffic of the river. The crew escaped without difficulty. The Vanguard, after backing out from the wreck, ran aground. It has been ascertained that she has received but trifling damage. Shortly afterwards, an American ship also ran aground, in consequence of the obstruction caused by the sunken barge.

FLOGGING AT WOOLWICH.—A gunner belonging to the field batteries of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, recently discharged from the sick list, has undergone corporal punishment, adjudged him by court-martial, for having stolen a sovereign from a comrade in one of the wards of the hospital. The man was brought into the riding-school at half-past eight, where he was pinioned to the triangle and received the first portion of his sentence—namely, fifty lashes. He is to be subjected to eighty-four days' confinement with hard labour in Coldbath-fields prison, and finally to be dismissed the service.

FINAL ARCTIC SEARCH.—There is now little or no doubt as to the intention of the Government to despatch final expeditions in search of further traces of Sir John Franklin. They will probably consist of three parties, one overland, another *via* Behring's Straits, and a third *via* Davis's Straits. The Behring's Straits expedition will probably be commanded either by Captain Collinson (should he volunteer his services), or Captain Rochfort Maguire, an officer of great energy and much active experience. The Baffin's Bay expedition will, it is supposed, be offered to Captain McClintock; but we have as yet heard no one mentioned to command the overland party. —*United Service Gazette.*

COURT-MARTIAL AT ALDERSHOT.—The proceedings of a general court-martial appointed to try Ensign Charles Jaquet, 23rd Fusiliers, on charges preferred against him by his late commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury, have just been brought to a close at Aldershot. The prosecution extended over three days, and the defence, in which the prisoner was assisted by Sergeant Ballantine (especially retained), occupied two days. The facts proved against the prisoner were, that having incurred two debts, one with a tradeswoman at Farnham, amounting to 2l. 9s., while an officer of the militia stationed at Aldershot, and another of 4l. for pipes and cigars with a Jew pedlar of the name of Salmon, he neglected to pay the first, and gave a cheque on Messrs. Cox and Co., which was dishonoured, for the second; that having been called upon by Colonel Bunbury to discharge these claims, he stated in writing, under date August 26, 1856, that both debts were paid; that at that date neither of the parties to whom prisoner was indebted had received the moneys due to them; and that he afterwards absented himself without leave. Ensign Jaquet, in his defence, denied the several imputations, and stated that he really believed the debts were paid, and that, being out of health, he considered he had cause for staying away. The decision of the court will not be made known until after it has been approved at the Horse Guards.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON held his first ordination last Sunday, when several gentlemen were admitted into holy orders. His Lordship delivered a sermon or charge to the assembled clergy, at the end of which he said:—"They (the clergy) must remember that they could not admit anything false into their system without corrupting the very source of truth, nor ought they to allow their minds to dwell upon disputed points of controversy when they should be occupied with those great truths which centre round the person and the office of Christ. If they spoke to their people of things of human invention, instead of teaching that which was in the Word of God, they might depend upon it that, to reverse the words of the text, they would lose both themselves and those who heard them, by lowering the standard of spiritual holiness. Eight of the candidates who were to be ordained that day were going as missionaries to dis-

tant lands, and their responsibilities would be greater than those of the clergy in England. For those young men he implored the prayers of the congregation." His Lordship concluded with some practical suggestions in reference to the working together of clergy and laity in the education of the poor and in works of charity.

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ECCLESIASTICAL DISPUTE.—The Judge of the Court of Arches delivered his judgment last Saturday in the cases of Westerton v. Liddell, and Beal v. Liddell. He affirmed the decision of the Consistorial Court requiring the removal of the credence tables, the stone altars, &c., from the churches of St. Paul and St. Barnabas. Mr. Liddell's counsel, however, gave notice of an intention to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, with whom the matter will finally rest.

AN EDINBURGH ANTIQUARIAN DISPUTE.—The dissenting majority of the Edinburgh Town Council have passed a series of resolutions disavowing the obligation and intention to restore the old church of Trinity College, one of the most ancient and remarkable Gothic fabrics in Scotland, but which in 1848 fell a sacrifice to railway innovation. Their design is to build another church, but without attempting to reproduce the older one. This has excited great dissatisfaction, and a meeting was held to protest against the course proposed. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Town Council, which, after a warm debate, resolved on persisting in its design. The question, it is said, will be immediately taken to the law courts by a large number of influential citizens, to determine the question of obligation; and, if necessary, the interposition of Parliament will be called for to prevent the council acting upon their present resolution.

THE LATE MR. KENYON.—Many a literary home has been made brighter this Christmas time by the noble sympathy of John Kenyon, the poet, whose death we recently announced. The poet was rich as he was genial. Scarcely a man or woman distinguished in the world of letters with which he was familiar has passed unremembered in his will, and some poets and children of poets are endowed with a princely munificence. Among those who have shared most liberally in this harvest of goodwill we are happy to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Browning receive 19,000l., Mr. Procter (Barry Cornwall), 6000l., and Dr. Southey a very handsome sum, we think 8000l. We hear that there are about eighty legatees, many of them the old literary friends of the deceased poet. —*Athenaeum.*

NATURALIZATION.—The Chevalier de Chatelain has written a letter to the *Times*, complaining that although he was naturalized in England in 1848, and has since voted at vestry and parliamentary elections, he recently received from the Government officials a circular, stating that "no act of naturalization granted by the British Government to an alien places him beyond the lawful power and control of his native country, unless he have received from the Government of such country a certificate of denationalization, or been released from his original obligations as a subject or citizen in some other legal way." The Chevalier adds:—"Now if, in 1848, the period of my naturalization, the Secretary of State had desired me to obtain my denationalization from the French Government, it would have been easy for me to do so; but since the *coup d'état*, not regarding the Empire as founded on a legitimate basis, I cannot of course solicit any favour of the said Government. I pledged allegiance to Queen Victoria, as to a constitutional monarch who has kept her oaths. I decline pledging any such allegiance towards Louis Napoleon, for the contrary reason. I therefore beg to inquire of you and your readers, after perusing the Secretary of State's letter, am I an English or a French subject? I believe myself to be an English subject, and that the circular in question is merely an attempt on the part of the second Empire to take steps against Frenchmen naturalized since the 2nd of December. But I repeat that my naturalization dates from 1848—viz., before the existence of the second Empire." Another French correspondent of the *Times*, living in England, says that a naturalized foreigner does not become an English subject, but is merely invested with all an Englishman's rights, excepting two.

WASTEFUL DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT STORES.—At the weekly meeting of the Council of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association on Thursday week, a specimen of official thrift and ingenuity was laid before the council as authentic. There is a ship (it was stated) now in Liverpool which carried a cargo of rum to Bala-klava, with orders to return in ballast. The war having ceased, and the rum not being required for the troops, it was sold at Constantinople at the rate of 5d. per gallon, or thereabouts, and the vessel returned to England in ballast, as originally intended. The quantity thus disposed of is said to have been eight hundred puncheons, or about 85,000 gallons, the worth of which, in England, at the present moment, would probably be about 5s. per gallon.

A LIBERAL LANDLORD.—A few years ago, when the agricultural interest was much depressed, Mr. George Lane Fox, of Dramham, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, reduced the rents of his tenantry ten per cent. On the return of a more prosperous period, his tenantry (namely in 1855) expressed their willingness to have their rents augmented to the old amount. Mr. Fox, however, declined to accept the proffered advance, and

suggested to his tenants the propriety of improving their farms as much as possible, in order that they might be prepared to meet any sudden check to the prosperity which they were then enjoying. The tenantry, to show their high appreciation of the liberality of their landlord, entered into a subscription for the purpose of procuring a full-length portrait of Mr. Fox, to be presented to Mrs. Fox. This was recently done at a large gathering of the tenantry.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE GAOL OF NEWGATE.—The following report was agreed to in the Court of Aldermen last Saturday:—We, the undersigned visiting magistrates, to whom it was referred to ascertain the truth of the allegation respecting the Governor of Newgate receiving presents of game from the friends of a prisoner named Octavius King, annex the statements made, and are of opinion that there is not the slightest foundation for the statement made against the Governor of Newgate.—W. T. COPELAND, WILLIAM LAWRENCE.—Saturday, Dec. 13, 1856.

GREENWICH ELECTION.—A letter appears in the *Times* of last Saturday, signed "B. W. A. Sleigh," in which the writer affirms that a member of the Government promised him the influence of his department at the forthcoming Greenwich election. Some such expression of political sympathy as Mr. Sleigh quotes may certainly have been used, but that it was done by inadvertence may be assumed from the fact that the gentleman in question forgot the rule of the Admiralty prohibiting political interference at elections. We may add our belief that at the time he wrote he had no personal knowledge whatever of Mr. Sleigh.—*Globe*.

THE INCOME-TAX MOVEMENT.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Cirencester, to oppose the war addition to the income-tax, has been held in the Town-hall. The memorial adopted prayed that the war tax of 9d. in the pound be abolished from the 5th of April, 1857, and that further inquiry be made as to the practicability of substituting a *bond fide* property-tax in lieu of the present income-tax. A meeting has also been held at Cheltenham, with the same results.

THE WARDMOTES.—The various wards of the City of London were convened on Monday, according to annual custom, for the purpose of proceeding with the election of common-councilmen and other officers for this ensuing year. In many of the wards, the income-tax was discussed, and resolutions were adopted urging its early reduction. Baron Rothschild's lengthened absence from the House of Commons was mentioned at several of the meetings, and the Government was urged to adopt steps for the introduction of measures for a speedy removal of Jewish disabilities. The elections were continued on subsequent days.

MR. A. N. SHAW, of Newhall, Fortrose, has issued an address to the electors of the Northern Burghs, stating that it is his intention to offer himself as a candidate for their suffrages at the next general election, in opposition to the sitting member, Mr. Laing. Mr. Shaw is a Liberal, favourable to "a comprehensive measure of reform, including an extension of the franchise, and a more equitable distribution of the electoral districts," a supporter of the present Government, and, on religious subjects, a participator in the views which predominate among the Scotch members.

REPRESENTATION OF MERTHYR.—Mr. John Frost, the Chartist, has announced his intention of becoming a candidate for the representation of Merthyr, at the next election.

THE MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME.—A deputation consisting of Mr. Thwaites (Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works), with Mr. Woolrych (Clerk of the Board), and Mr. Bazalgette (Engineer of the Board), had an interview with Sir Benjamin Hall, at the office of Works, Whitehall, on Monday, to submit for the approval of the First Commissioner of the Queen's Works, the plan of intercepting drainage approved by the Board. Sir Benjamin intimated that he should lay the plan before two civil engineers and one military engineer, in order that they may thoroughly examine it.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—The affairs of this Bank again came before the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday. It was the day appointed for the consideration of the petition to the Commissioner to direct an application to the Court of Chancery for the appointment of a receiver under this bankruptcy. The petition was dismissed, and the 8th of January was fixed for discussing the disputed proofs of debts.—On Tuesday, a first dividend of 5s. 6d. in the pound was declared under the estate of the Royal British Bank on debts amounting to 380,000l. The assignees have not retained anything to meet legal or other expenses. It is expected that a further dividend will be declared in about six weeks.—A dividend sitting took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, when a large number of depositors and creditors attended to prove their debts. At the conclusion of the sitting, it was stated that the debts proved that day, together with those proved on a former occasion, amounted to 800,000l., and the assignees proposed to divide 5s. 6d. in the pound.

CHURCH EXTENSION IN ST. PANCRAS.—The Bishop of London on Tuesday consecrated a handsome and commodious new church, situated in the vicinity of Oakley-square, Bedford New-town, in the populous parish of St. Pancras, and dedicated to St. Matthew, in the presence of a large number of the surrounding inhabitants and several of the neighbouring clergy.

THE MIDDLESEX REFORM REGISTRATION SOCIETY was obliged to dissolve on Monday, in consequence of its funds being insufficient to carry out the objects in view. The well-known Mr. Coppock, who moved the dissolution, observed:—"As to returning members free of expense, that was impossible in Middlesex. The last election cost 4000l., and it was impossible to fight it for less. He was thoroughly disheartened with the conduct of the Liberal electors."

HEALTH OF LONDON.—After a sudden increase of mortality, the weekly return again exhibits results of a very favourable character. In the week that ended last Saturday, the deaths registered in London decreased to 1060. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number of deaths was 1269; but if the excess of deaths in the fifty-first week of 1847, when influenza nearly doubled the mortality, be excluded from the calculation, and the average, thus reduced, be corrected for the increased population of the present time, it will be found that the ordinary rate of mortality at this season would have produced 1300 deaths last week, and therefore, more by 240 than the number actually returned.—Last week, the births of 868 boys and 823 girls, in all 1691 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1465.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

A STRANGE STORY ABOUT CRIMEAN STORES.—It has just been discovered at Newark that a large amount of stores—consisting of hams, bacon, wines, spirits, porter, ale, cheese, tobacco, warm clothing, &c.—which the townspeople had subscribed for, in order to send out to the Crimean army in 1855, have never been despatched, but have been lying all this time in one of the rooms of the Town Hall, still packed up. They were consigned to the then Mayor for forwarding. The present Mayor has notified that such of the goods as are not spoiled by keeping will be returned to the subscribers.

MURDER OF A POLICEMAN.—An inquest was held at Birkenhead on the body of a police-officer named Vaughan. Early on Tuesday morning, a young man, a dock labourer, named Thomas Smith, was creating a disturbance by kicking in the panels of street doors, when Vaughan attempted to take him into custody. Smith immediately drew a knife and stabbed Vaughan under the heart. The latter exclaimed "I'm done; I'm done!" and died soon afterwards. Another officer came up at the time and called upon Smith to surrender; he refused to do so, and the officer knocked him down with his stick. At the inquest, Smith said that the officer ill-used him, and that he only acted in self-defence. A verdict of Wilful Murder was returned against him, and he was committed for trial.

MR. MACREADY'S SCHOOLS AT SHERBORNE.—A very large party of both sexes assembled in the British School Room, on Tuesday evening, to witness the distribution of prizes amongst the boys, on the breaking up of the school during the autumnal recess. Some twelve months since a school of fifty boys was opened in the upper rooms of the Literary Institution buildings, by Mr. Macready, at his sole expense. Applications for admission became so numerous that the founder of the school enlarged his plan of operations, but, after steps had been taken to form a council, and to organize the school, he was met by objections to the proposed school-room—the only convenient available building—on the score that it was not a neutral ground on which churchmen and dissenters might co-operate. The tuition afforded within the school is not of a character to excite jealousy of this kind; it may be termed "secular education," being confined to reading, writing, and arithmetic, with, occasionally, a little Scripture geography. The objection to the room, however, being to some an insuperable one, it was arranged that the newly organized school (which was to be supported by voluntary subscriptions), should be continued at the rooms of the institution. It was soon found that even after the outlay of a sum, considerable in comparison with the amount of the subscriptions, the institution rooms could not be made convenient; and after a short trial Mr. Macready removed to the rejected school room, and was followed by most of the boys, and here, with the aid of a paid master, and the occasional services of some of the inhabitants, he, on three nights in every week, instructs the youth of our poorer neighbours.—*Sherborne Journal.*

THE SEWAGE OF TOWNS.—We understand that a Treasury commission has been issued, appointing Lord Portman, H. Ker Seymour, Esq., M.P., I. K. Brunel, Esq., C.E., Robert Rawlinson, Esq., C.E., Professor J. T. Way, J. B. Lawes, Esq., and Southwood Smith, Esq., M.D., to inquire into the most effectual means of distributing the sewage of towns and of applying it to beneficial and profitable uses.—*Globe.*

CHRISTMAS-DAY was ushered in this year by weather such as old people are fond of saying reminds them of their young days. Though the previous day had been mild and rainy, Thursday, the 25th, even before it was light, brought with it a hard white frost, added to which, early in the morning, there was a thick fog, sadly trying the lungs of the asthmatical. In private houses, it is to be presumed, there was the ordinary amount of genial feasting; and, in the workhouses, charity, as usual, came scattering roast beef and plum-pudding, ale and tobacco, to gladden the heart and irradiate the faces of those whose every-day life is of the dustiest and dullest.

EAST KENT.—Sir Edward Dering, one of the members

for East Kent, has issued an address to his constituents, in which he states that, owing to severe sickness, he has been recommended by his medical advisers to pass the winter and spring in Egypt; and he therefore solicits the indulgence of the electors.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND AND LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—The health of these noblemen (more especially that of the latter) is improving.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—The inaugural festival of the new Industrial Schools was held on Monday night in the Exchange-room, Dundee. The Industrial Schools were erected by the liberality of George Duncan, Esq., M.P., who devoted to that object the gift of 1100l., presented to him by his constituents, as a mark of their respect for his character and of their appreciation of his parliamentary services; and in celebrating the opening of the new building, appropriately named "The Duncan Testimonial," the directors of the Industrial School Society resolved to embrace the opportunity of giving a public expression of their gratitude to Mr. Duncan for his valuable gift. Lord Kinnaird, president of the society, occupied the chair, but the chief speech of the evening was that of Lord Panmure, who dwelt upon the necessity for encouraging reformatory institutions, especially now that we have been obliged to abandon transportation. A *soirée* of the members and friends of the Pontefract Mechanics Institution—which has recently been amalgamated with the Pontefract reading-room and old subscription library—took place in the town-hall of that borough on Tuesday evening. Fully three hundred and fifty persons sat down to tea, each tray being passed over by a lady friendly to the institution. Mr. Monkton Milnes, M.P., and others, afterwards addressed the meeting. The report showed that the society is progressing favourably.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 27.
SWITZERLAND.

A PATRIOTIC dinner has been given at Geneva, at which Generals Dufour and Klapka were guests. In the course of an after-dinner speech, the former said:—"I have worn the uniform of an officer for half a century, and have served as a Federal officer for the last forty years; and in a time like this my heart grows young, in spite of the weight of years. I am old and weak, but, should my country call on me, I shall not hesitate to take the field with my fellow-brethren. Perhaps we shall meet on the field of battle." After speaking of the dangers which menace the Confederation, he continued:—"But we must not be discouraged by these dangers; we must confront them. I have faith in the Swiss troops—in their patriotic spirit and martial qualities; and I rely on the population of Switzerland. I feel, for my own part, that the close of my career is approaching, but I am entirely at the orders of my fellow-citizens, and at the disposal of my country."

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, writing on December 23, says:—"The hopes to which the telegraphic news from Frankfurt gave rise yesterday evening, just before I closed my letter, of an approach to something like an arrangement between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation, have been crushed in the bud by the result of the inquiries I have made to-day. No diplomatic mediation, no overtures, no negotiation, nothing of the kind is known of or expected here; the matter remains as it did in the early part of last week, when Herr von Sydow was instructed to break off all diplomatic relations with the Federal Government. This, by-the-by, he did by note from Sigmaringen, in Hohenzollern, where he is residing, and not orally."

ITALY.

The explosion of the powder magazine near the King's palace is now said to have been the result of a plot. An attempt to assassinate Major Zambelli, of the Carabineers, has been made at Imola. He was walking with a brother officer when he was fired at, and the ball struck his cloak. The two officers pursued the assassin, but he escaped.

The individuals accused of the murder of Count Lovatelli have arrived at Bologna, and are to be tried by an Austrian court-martial.

EAST SUFFOLK ELECTION.—Lord Henneker was returned yesterday morning for the eastern division of Suffolk, without opposition.

CHRISTMAS DEPREDACTIONS.—The police-offices yesterday morning presented their usual Christmas features of robberies of Christmas dinners from pantries by prowling freebooters. To-day, in all probability, they will have a goodly array of drunken cases and 'rows,' consequent on the time-honoured custom of 'boxing.'

CHARGE OF OBTAINING GOODS BY FALSE PRETENCES.—Surr Edward Packe Barber, the secretary of the Samaritan Institution, in West-street, Smithfield, was summoned yesterday by Mr. Henry Potter, before Sir Robert W. Carden, charged with obtaining goods from divers persons by false and fraudulent pretences. After the reception of a good deal of evidence, the further hearing was adjourned till Tuesday.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, December 26th, 1856, including season ticket holders, 14,518.

NOTIONS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The correspondent who addresses us from this place is informed that the gentleman whose name he sees advertised has nothing whatever to do with the work in question.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We do not undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—**DR. ARNOLD.**

SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, AND PRUSSIA.

NEUCHÂTEL affords another illustration of the discriminating morality which now prevails in Europe. The guardians of public order might have been expected to bestow some censure on the authors of a hopeless insurrection. Had the insurrection represented any principle, or any popular sentiment, it would have been denounced as the work of incendiaries, misguided or malicious; but, having been a Royalist enterprise, undertaken in the name of legitimacy, it receives official sanction, and is nowhere reprobated, although it has endangered the peace of the world. This, however, is not the only paradox connected with the dispute between Prussia and Switzerland. **FREDERICK WILLIAM**, who so lately preached from the throne on the blessings of tranquillity, and stood aloof from the combination against Russia, is now a German **HOTSPUR**, the most warlike sovereign on the Continent. France, which menaced him less than two years ago, promises her sympathetic neutrality in his behalf; so that we are in the presence of three astonishing anomalies—insurrection defended by diplomacy, Prussia in a martial attitude, and France the abettor of Prussia. But we are also in the presence of historical and political certainties which demonstrate the right of Switzerland to resist this league of the powers on both sides of the Rhine, and the insurgents within her own frontier. Neuchâtel never lost its rank as a free state, the member of a sovereign federation; it was never more intimately connected with Prussia than with Switzerland; eight years of independent existence have given it as good a claim to recognition as the French Empire; the link which attached it to the Prussian monarchy was a fiction as frail as that by which Portugal claims to this day the dominion of the East and West Indies; finally, the principle which must now be admitted to settle such questions is that, when the population of a state, however small, has declared its will, that will is prior to all other assertions, paramount to all documentary titles, and cannot be set aside without leaving open a source of perpetual discord and danger. We affirm this maxim; but, apart from it, Prussia is now preparing to carry out, in the face of Europe, an act of piratical violence in Switzerland.

The attitude of France is an exemplification of the immorality which is the instinct of the Empire. We could not expect, indeed, that **LOUIS NAPOLEON** would be grateful to the Swiss Republic which gave him an asylum, and offered to defend him with all her forces. He was not grateful to France, which raised him out of obscurity, and gave him an opportunity to become the most illustrious or

the most infamous ruler in Europe. He rejects, in Switzerland, the right of popular choice to which he appeals, in France, as his own title to the throne. But it might at least have been anticipated that the imperial Cabinet would not publish an invitation to the Prussians to create a dangerous war, among the Alps and on the Rhine. Notorious as it is, that the Empire abhors the neighbourhood of freedom, we may well be astonished by the turpitude of the approval bestowed on an attempt to root out the independence of the oldest liberal state in the world. For the policy of Prussia and France is no less than a scheme to root out the independence of Switzerland. They put their demands in such a form as made compliance on the part of the Federal Government impossible. They require a sovereign Federation to disown its laws, and to surrender the right of jurisdiction over offences committed within its own territory. The Federation declines to make this sacrifice, which would leave it without a political existence, and forthwith Prussia prepares an army and Germany opens a highway for the invasion of Switzerland, while France pronounces for the claims of the invader. England, through her organs of opinion, declares herself unmistakably in favour of the Swiss; but, in this self-governed country, public opinion and foreign policy have nothing in common. We wait to see how long and how fiercely the fire will rage. The only quarter to which the Federation turns for help is across Savoy to Piedmont, where the riflemen in green are invited to take part with the free rifles of Switzerland. In addition to this alliance, which is very problematical, the Swiss hope to be favoured by insurrectionary diversions in Europe. They will also recal their mercenaries—the janissaries of Naples and Rome. Nor is it improbable that advantage will be taken of a war of national independence in the Alps and the valleys at their feet, to renew the revolution, which would thus be supplied with a citadel and centre of operations. The chief doubt would be, whether the first attack of the invaders could be repelled, so that the Swiss and Europe might have breathing-time.

When it is remembered that the troops of the Federation, organized and in reserve, amount to no less than two hundred thousand men, that they are physically superior, although inferior in discipline, practice, and accoutrements to the Prussians, that every male inhabitant of the invaded cantons would be an active enemy, that the Federal army would scatter through the valleys and cluster round innumerable separate points of defence, and that frequently the Swiss have defeated fourfold their own numbers, it is evident that the King of Prussia has not a mere coming, seeing, and conquering before him. The Swiss do not appear alarmed by the prospect; nor are they inspired by the desperate activity of despair. On the contrary, their movements are marked by calmness and deliberation; they know their own strength, and they will make trial of it against the strength of Prussia. But it has not yet come to a declaration of war. At the last moment France will probably protest. There are many steps from a suspension of relations to a battle. Should the collision take place speedily, it will take place in the winter, the season most favourable to the mountaineers. "If ever the Swiss are attacked, they will know how to defend the country of **WILLIAM TELL**." These are the words of **LOUIS NAPOLEON**.

The sympathy of England belongs naturally to the Swiss. They have a just cause; they are the weaker party; they have been abandoned by France; they are merely upholding

the prerogative of national independence; they intend to practise no severity on the political prisoners; they are assailed by superior forces. We may be unable to assist them; but we should prohibit our Government from taking part in the great conspiracy against the Republic of the Alps, obnoxious to Continental monarchies and empires. What they are asserting is the privilege of enforcing their own laws against their own criminal subjects; but their laws are mild; they have no Devil's Island or Guiana fen, for the torture of malecontents. Let it be remembered, moreover, that England is in no way pledged to acquiesce in the Prussian claim. The protocol of 1852 is a simple record of a Prussian protest; **LORD MALMESBURY** might have more discreetly declined to compromise this country, even by the semblance of assent; but though he signed the instrument, it was merely as a witness. England has not yet guaranteed the literal execution of the treaty of Vienna, revoked repeatedly by the common act of Europe. **FREDERICK WILLIAM**, however, has stretched that palimpsest upon a drum, and sounds the attack on Switzerland.

CHRISTMAS GAMES.

Is Christmas to be overlaid by its own machinery? Is all the business of society to be converted to a game which loses its zest by becoming mechanical? The pantomimes are not what they were, partly because *Harlequin* and *Clown* have grown so terribly anxious, with the pressure of the Income-tax and other modern improvements, and partly because the audience is not what it used to be. The prosperity of a joke is in the ear of the listener. We never had so many appliances for keeping up the joviality of the season; all our illustrated journals teem with evidences of it. Our markets and butchers' shops are far more neat and brilliant than they used to be; the people at church are better dressed; holly is more abundant, because there is a special growth for the special demand. But with all these systematic preparations, there is scarcely the spontaneity that once marked the English Christmas.

And this season is more clouded than usual. The sunshine of the home-fire glows less genially, because those who sit round it are not listening only to the storms of the elements—those storms which bring hardship in this month, but health in the months to come. They have other thoughts just at present. The great champions of Christianity are illustrating its principles in a fashion like a satirical burlesque rendered real. The "Powers" are dramatizing the *Inferno*, and Christendom just at present is playing the fool before Islam and Buddhism, as if for the very purpose of unconvincing the heathen. Turkey has been brought into the European system, to find out what it is; namely, a system officered by royal soldiers, who expend other men's blood in heaping up their own power, and form alliances, as they have at Paris, for the very purpose of trying to circumvent each other. They are footpads on a huge scale, who try to get their booty while other men run the danger.

Switzerland, the small Republic, repeats the fable of the Pigmies warred on by Cranes; the Cranes being sent by his Evangelical Lutheran Majesty of Prussia; a gentleman who went round Newgate with Mrs. FRX to show his philanthropy, and now threatens to shed blood by wholesale in order to regain a fantastical title which had neither reality nor profit. That is Lutheran Christendom! Catholic Christendom is equally self-satirical. Naples preys upon the vitals of his people; the Western Powers remon-

strating with him, yet selfishly afraid to compel. France is preyed on by its Emperor, who is cleverly circumventing the Powers, and making them, through their jealousies, support the man that they would have crushed.

On the borders of India, England and Russia are entering upon a petty war which they fight by proxies, in the names of DOST MOHAMMED and the Shah of PERSIA. This is how the doctrine of peace is illustrated just at present to the heathen.

SICHEL, who told Dr. LIVINGSTON that he would make his people believe by beating them, showed that the spirit of VOLTAIRE is not dead, but has emigrated to Africa on purpose to welcome the British missionary. In the meanwhile, although Christians are beaten with sticks in Italy, in England we have outgrown that puerile mode of governing; our lower orders are no longer beaten to make them believe,—and some cynics might say, because the effects of the beating have ceased among us. The fact was proved, on Thursday, when so many of the unbeaten neglected to come to church. In Christian England, piety and politeness go together. The ruder classes, unbeaten, appear to be unconvinced; as if the rulers of the world, deprived of the stick or the rack, had not yet hit upon the expedient of illustrating the doctrine of Christianity practically!

So the devil stalks abroad in the streets. Yes. Honest, innocent girls shall be garrotted in Oxford-street; nay, official clerks are equally obnoxious to the attack of the garrotter. The Civil Service is throttled; and not only finds itself defrauded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer through the superannuation dodge, but seized in the public streets by the other Chancellor of the Exchequer, the footpad. "The London Scoundrel" writes to the *Times* a letter calling for "blood! blood!" à la ROBSON; and the *Times* is delighted. That is the way to treat publicans and sinners. Nay, "A Sympathizer," in the *Morning Post*, suggests a newly invented defensive collar, covered, or rather masked with silk, but under that cover friezed with stout needle-pointed barbed hooks, which would transfix the hands that grasped, and parting from the collar remain planted in the flesh. If, says the "Sympathizer," they be smeared with animal matter from the dissecting room, the poor "cove" may die pleasantly in his own bed from the poison, unless he go "raving mad" with the pain! The judges, however, cap even this Christian suggestion; for most of them, from CAMPBELL to WILLES, are proposing to re-establish a Norfolk Island—a place which concentrated and reproduced the most hideous and unnamed crimes that ever scourged society. That at the present moment is verily the leading idea for chastening the sins of the benighted, the misbegotten, the miseducated, the dwarfish, the outcasts of society!

There must be some little amusement in the midst of these severe pursuits, and the man of taste provides it in the *bal masqué*. It is an amusement which can be shared by those that have full purses; and full purses in this country are the test of respectability. Curiously enough, when Respectability puts on the mask physically, it takes it off morally. Thus it shares the 'fast' indulgences which it dares not name, and even remembers with disgust. However, "Christmas comes but once a year," and Christians "must relax!"

Our statesmen conform to the national custom; they have gathered round the roast-beef and plum-pudding in 'the family,'—that sacred institution; and after dinner, with the wine and biscuits, they will play at the new Christmas games—How to destroy a Republic, for the vainglory of Evan-

gelical Prussia; How to circumvent Russia—orthodox Christian Russia—who is trying to cheat us with the connivance of Catholic France; How to avoid fulfilling in Naples the duty of remonstrance, recently undertaken; How to back out from coercing a king, who will not, like the Western Powers, even play the game of appearances; How to cure garotting in the capital of Christian England, by re-establishing a Norfolk Island! These are the puzzles for the Christmas party of English high life just now.

Let us propose another pursuit, only it would have a little earnestness in it. Dr. LIVINGSTON is preparing for the grand work of an African mission, on a large scale, to evangelize the aborigines. He says that he has found out the way to the heart of Africa. Charity, they say, begins at home. We have already had our home missions; but the mission we propose is one to convert Europe to Christianity. Could we only find one Power to begin, by acting strictly on Christian principles! We must confess, however, that with regard to Europe, we are behind Dr. LIVINGSTON—we have not yet found out the way to penetrate the belt of pestilence and barbarism that doth hedge every king of them.

ELECTIONS UNDER THE EMPIRE.

THE French nation will shortly be invited to elect a Legislative Corps. The Representative Chamber, as now constituted, is a deception. It is a mere registry of Imperial decrees. Every measure is decided before it is debated. Every resolution is the *placet* of the Tuileries. There is no longer a deliberative or moderating power in France. The head of the army is the master of the people; neither senator nor representative enjoys more authority than a private soldier or a police-agent. The elections of 1857, in the opinion of some, will give France an opportunity of employing the universal suffrage bestowed after the *coup d'état* in an attempt to restore the reality of popular representation. The Liberal party has not yet determined upon the course which it will pursue. Three different lines of policy are proposed for recommendation to the electors; but it is probable that a general understanding will be arrived at before the period fixed for the elections. Those Frenchmen who are not Imperialists may abstain from voting altogether; or they may vote on condition that the individuals chosen shall refuse to take the oath of allegiance to LOUIS NAPOLEON; or they may treat the oath as, in common fame, a fiction, and create a powerful political opposition in the Chambers. These diverging views are stated with great clearness in a letter we have received from a distinguished member of the Liberal party.

Several meetings, we are informed, have been held, at which the leading Liberals of Paris have discussed the course of action most proper to be adopted with reference to the approaching elections. Some kind of organized opposition to the Imperial Government is determined upon; but the question difficult to decide is, what form it shall take, and under what conditions it shall be carried on. By many the electors are advised to go to the poll, but without the intention of giving effect to their votes; they might thus display their numbers; the candidates might refuse the oath of allegiance to the Empire; and the authority of LOUIS NAPOLEON would thus sustain a moral shock. The old chiefs of the party would reappear, remind Europe of their existence, and prove that the democratic suffrages of France do not sanction the government of the *coup d'état*.

Others maintain that the oath of allegiance to be taken by representatives is, as an oath, null and void, and not binding on the conscience. They propose that the Liberal candi-

dates shall enter the Legislative Chamber by complying with the forms imposed upon them; they maintain that, to recoil before an oath, at the door of the public Parliament, would no doubt be a respectable proceeding, but very impolitic; and that to be governed by technical punctilios of this sort, is to insure victory to their antagonists, and to leave them in undisputed possession of the whole political arena. France can raise no platform against her Parliament; whatever battles of opinion are fought, must be fought within its walls.

But the more scrupulous members of the party declare that their superiority consists in their honesty; that their respect of public faith constitutes the great reproach with which they are entitled to assail the author and the accomplices of the *coup d'état*. If they take an oath which they cannot venerate, and vow allegiance to a throne which they detest and despise, they place themselves on a level, in this one respect, with the conspirators of December; they dare no longer impute perjury, as a crime, to the Emperor, and the men who surround him.

Others, again, advise complete abstention from voting, on the ground that to elect candidates without intending them to sit in the Chamber would be childish, and that to elect them on condition of taking an insincere and hateful vow would be immoral. Moreover, no real election, they contend, can take place. What party, however popular, could hope to compete with a Government whose authority is so centralized and so diffusive, with a legion of police, prefects, sub-prefects, and secret agents in its pay, the Church in its interest, the laws perverted in its behalf, the ballot-boxes exposed to official scrutiny, and perhaps millions of forged votes? At the 'election' of the Emperor, there appeared, for certain places, more votes than there were voters. Suppose an English borough, watched by ten thousand soldiers, the returning officer removable by the Government, the voters intercepted on their way to the booths, the ballot-boxes in the hands of official scrutineers—no journals daring to print a doubt—what would be the chance of an independent candidate? The success of such an attempt could not be great, while its failure would impair the prestige of the Liberal party, the immense prestige which belongs to unascertained numbers, and to power half concealed in mystery. To this it is replied, that, unless advantage be taken of the forthcoming opportunity, the Liberals can make no great manifestation for five years. The indolent and the cowardly will rejoice; the vigorous and the bold will be reduced to despair; resistance will become a tradition, and submission a habit of the French people. Moreover, as we learn from another source, a large class of the workmen "are determined to vote;" so that the party, besides being inactive, will seem to be divided.

Of three lines of action suggested, we think that to elect a Liberal opposition, under condition of swearing allegiance to the Empire, would be the worst. It would destroy the moral purity of the Liberal party; it would, in one sense, identify it with the reigning Government, and sanction the Imperial usurpation. It would expose it to a charge of weakness, because the opposition could not possibly represent the general body of Liberalism in France. This last objection also lies against the proposal to elect mock candidates, whose demonstration would consist of a refusal to take the oath. We fear the number would be small; though certainly, if CAVAIGNAC were to be returned for Paris, no one could venture in future to talk of LOUIS NAPOLEON's popularity in the capital. But, keeping in view the impossi-

bility of securing a real Liberal representation, and the serious demoralization implied by the undervaluing of political oaths, we cannot see any course for the party to pursue except of persisting in a solemn refusal to identify itself with the institutions of the Empire.

THE DITCHER DECISION.

THESE are a few questions we should like to put without, however, the faintest hope of getting a satisfactory answer, and, among others, these:—

Are the parties who stirred up and promoted the suit that led to the sentence of deprivation against Archdeacon DENISON satisfied with the present issue of the contest; and can they, with quiet consciences, look upon their work and say it is good—for the Church of England?

Does Mr. DITCHER feel more comfortable?

Is the Venerable Archdeacon LAW of opinion that the Bath Judgment is likely to lead to that acme of perfection in conditions ecclesiastical—'Repose'? The Vicar of South Brent may smile complacently on his work; but his secret partisan, the Archdeacon of Wells, if we do not misjudge human nature, must have some odd misgivings respecting the part he has played—preaching the doctrine of repose, practising the doctrine of contention!

Meanwhile, as quiet onlookers, we may be permitted to point out some serious aspects of the question. If the principle of the Bath Judgment is affirmed, it will be a precedent, a signal for further strife, a declaration of open war between the two great parties in the Church? If it be not affirmed, then the dictum of a Prince of the Church respecting the doctrine of the Eucharist will be overruled and set aside, not by a council of ecclesiastics, but by that temporal court the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. How great the scandal! The fact that the Church of England is a 'compromise,' that it is a temporal institution resting on a basis of expediency, will be more than ever manifest.

But if it be affirmed, if it should turn out that there is no appeal from the decision of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, the consequences may be even more momentous. According to the Bath Judgment, except in cases where the language of the Articles clearly admits of more than one interpretation, the clergy of the Church must accept the Articles absolutely and without appeal to Scripture. Dr. LUSHINGTON, on behalf of the archbishop, distinctly laid it down that the court could admit of no reference whatever to Scripture or the writings of great lights of the Church to prove the soundness of dogmas contrary to the clear meaning of the Articles. This being so, what becomes of the right of private judgment—that Protestant charter of freedom for which so many have died in martyrdom? Mark the effect. The assumption is that the learned divines who drew up the Articles had performed a final analysis of Scripture, and the fruit of their labours is hung like a millstone round the necks of the clergy of our Established Church. Well may the Rev. FREDERICK MAURICE say, in his letter to *Fraser's Magazine*, that "the circumstances of this [the DENISON] trial force the whole question of our subscription to the Articles, and of the allegiance to the Scriptures which these Articles demand, upon our understandings and consciences." Clearly that is so. Which shall it be—Articles or Scriptures?—in other words, Papacy or private judgment? And how curious it is that the parties who have raised this case against Mr. DENISON should be identical with those who abhor the Papacy the most, and laud private judgment to the skies!

Two eminent members of the Church have spoken out on this question—the Bishop of EXETER and the Reverend FREDERICK MAURICE. The clergy of Exeter are uneasy and alarmed at the Bath judgment; and they have appealed, as befits them, to HENRY, the pillar of their faith. He is a courageous person and not easily alarmed, so that he does not share their trepidations. But what does he say? He stands fast by the penal statute of ELIZABETH, "provided it be fairly dealt with"—that is, dealt with so as to secure the ascendancy of his party. But here his conservatism ends. He questions the authority of the Bath court, he questions the validity of the Bath judgment; he is almost, if not quite, of opinion that it is no court at all. If it be a court it is an inferior one, and Mr. DENISON may be turned out of one diocese to find a place in another. And he does not seem to see the scandal of such an alternative. A clergyman may be condemned for teaching false doctrine in one district, and preferred for teaching it in another; and in both be a member of the Church of England!

Mr. MAURICE does not take the same ground as the Bishop of EXETER. Far from it. In his eyes the Church is wide enough to hold DENISON and DITCHER. He would take both the Articles and the Scripture, and read the one by the light of the other. But if he arrive at a different conclusion from that expressed in any Articles? Then he would leave the holder in quiet possession of his opinion; nay, he would permit him to teach it; but he would not permit him to impose it as a test upon others. It is well known that Mr. DENISON applied his opinions as ordination tests. Mr. MAURICE objects to that; but short of that he seems to favour liberty of opinion within the Church. To us, however, this looks very like a doctrine that would destroy the Church of England as an ecclesiastical preserve, and throw its gates very wide indeed. But, then, what becomes of the Articles?

In accordance with these views Mr. MAURICE asks the Privy Council, in judging Mr. DENISON's case, should it reach that tribunal, to act on the principle which they followed in the case of Mr. GORHAM. The judgment in that case, he remarks, was hailed by the laity as representing their interest. Mr. MAURICE is a single-minded pastor, and perhaps does not see why the judgment suited the laity. It suited them because they include a vast number of patrons of livings, and livings are as much property as stock, and the value of livings, as property, would have been depreciated had the Privy Council sustained instead of reversing Sir JENNER Fust's decision, and as they will be depreciated should the Privy Council sustain instead of reversing the decision of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY. So, this great vested interest being on his side, Mr. MAURICE's views are likely to triumph, and one more flagrant proof be given that it is not unity of divine truth, but a common-place interest in property, that holds the Church of England together.

LAST CHRISTMAS-DAY.

WE were at war last Christmas-day, and we are at war now. Then it was with Russia; now it is with her client. Our well-informed friends were on that day positively assured that she would accept the Vienna proposals, and in another direction, quite as positively informed that she would not. There was then the same talk of a pacifying Congress as there is now. France was weary after the efforts of the war; Naples was adulterating her money; America was hesitating whether to dismiss Mr. CRAMPTON; the army in the

Crimea was in possession of Sebastopol, waiting for orders; an Imperial Prince was expected. The world knows well how these matters have turned out; how France forced us into the peace; how Naples has not improved after our scolding; how Mr. CRAMPTON came to England, and was followed, in due course, by Captain HARTSTEIN, with the Resolute; how the Crimean army has come home; how the Imperial Prince has been made Lord of Biscay, Legionary of Honour, and a military grandee. Time has passed less changeably in other quarters. Sir JOHN DEAN PAUL and his partners have had rather more than their first year in prison; WILLIAM PALMER, last Christmas-day, was doubtful of his fate; REDPATH sat brilliantly at the head of a lustrous table, and people said, "What capital dinners that fellow gives! how can he afford it?" And ROBSON, not then in a canary-coloured suit, was lord of Kilburn Priory.

Other names have been newly stamped in the year 1856. Last Christmas-day Lord LUCAN had not so utterly broken down as he has since; we had not heard of the unhappy Lord CARDIGAN's dream of his lost leg at Balaklava; we had only that week read the third and fourth volumes of MACAULAY's History; we were still asked "What do you think of 'Hiawatha'?" Mr. WADDINGTON had not yet been driven from the Eastern Counties chair; General WILLIAMS was in the hands of the enemy; the Edinburgh Protestants were tingling after the report of D'AZEGLIO;—Earth has not made much progress. It has morally abolished Lord LUCAN and CARDIGAN; it has thanked and rewarded General WILLIAMS; Scotland has attacked Mr. MACAULAY; and the Eastern Counties have discarded Mr. WADDINGTON. We have hanged PALMER and DOVE; we have transported ROBSON, and put SNELL to hard labour; we have REDPATH in custody; and the great gold robbery is in course of elucidation; but we go on murdering, garrotting, and embezzling, capital punishments, transportation, the crank, and the general advance of society notwithstanding. We are at peace with Russia and at war with Persia. The independence of Sardinia has been strengthened, and the independence of Switzerland is menaced. MALLEY is hanged, and the Dublin assassination remains undetected. We 'keep going,' and that is all.

It is as much as we can expect. We try to do no more. When we make war, it is as participators in some miserable diplomatic scheme; when we make peace, it is a peace that ignores the rights of nations. Our justice is sufficient to put the criminal out of sight, without narrowing the channels of crime. We fancy we move, but it is time that moves; we are where we were last Christmas.

THE CASE OF Mr. HENRY CORT.

"THE injustice done to an individual," says "Junius," "is sometimes of service to the public"—meaning, of course, that it arouses them to a consideration of evils which they might otherwise have neglected. Whether, however, it shall have this result or not rests only with themselves. If they listen with apathy to the complaints of genuine sufferers, and refuse to aid in obtaining them redress, such cases may be converted into precedents, and entail the worst consequences on future generations. Such has too often been the case among ourselves. A veracious narrative of the wrongs and disappointments with which discoverers in the useful arts have had to contend in this country would be an instructive page in our social history. The present condition of the patent law seems to prove how little Englishmen, as a body, seem to care about the rights of their benefactors, or to appreciate their own interest in the promotion of mechanical and scientific discoveries. They love to abide in the ancient paths, and seldom re-

flect on the inconveniences and privations they would still have been forced to undergo had not able and enthusiastic men, at various times, undergone still greater in the pursuit of remedial inventions. *Sic vos non cobis* should be the motto of the British Patent-office.

There cannot be a stronger case in point than that of Mr. HENRY COX. The saving he has effected to the country during the last sixty years is computed at upwards of five hundred millions. Either our fathers and ourselves, therefore, would have been paying a considerably higher rate of taxes during the whole of the period aforesaid, or we and our children should have been burdened by an addition of rather more than one-half of the National Debt, had it not been for the genius and energy of this unfortunate gentleman. Let the grumblers against the Income-tax consider how they would feel towards the man who should suddenly relieve them of the whole of it, and they will attain a suitable idea of the gratitude it behoves them to display towards him who on the eve of our great Continental war enabled us to dispense with the purchase of foreign iron.

The facts of this case are short, though, unhappily, not simple. They are, on the contrary, remarkably mysterious. But the injustice is sufficiently broad and obvious without any explanation of the adroit piece of jugglery by which Mr. COX was ruined. Briefly then, prior to Mr. COX's invention, England was dependent upon Sweden and Norway for her supply of wrought iron, and the sum we paid for that commodity annually, before 1790, was about a million and a half. The process by which we were enabled to manufacture our own iron need not be explained here; suffice it to say that its immense value was immediately acknowledged by the trade, who contracted to pay Mr. COX ten shillings per ton on all which they manufactured by its aid. Here at once was an opulent fortune secured to him. Having, however, spent all his private means in perfecting the discovery, and being in want of money at the earlier stage of the proceedings, he entered into partnership with Mr. ADAM JELLICOE, of the Navy Pay-office, London, and deposited with him his two patent-deeds and his contracts. Mr. JELLICOE became a defaulter to the extent of 27,000*l.*, and the Government seized Mr. COX's securities to cover his partner's defalcations. His contracts were at this period bringing in a revenue of from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* per annum. The Government kept them till the term for which they had been entered on had expired, namely, eleven years, and never accounted to Mr. COX for a single farthing. But this is not all. Although they were in possession of assets capable of paying Mr. JELLICOE's debt more than ten times over, they positively levied on Mr. COX's goods for 25,000*l.*, sold up his entire stock, and reduced him to beggary. That this atrocity could have been perpetrated within the memory of men now living, is a most melancholy satire upon the force of public opinion and the liberty of the subject, and affords a most cogent argument for stimulating public alacrity in redressing it. The honesty of public men has not increased since the days of DUNDAS, and the helplessness of private individuals does not seem to have diminished. Baron DE BODE was unable to obtain redress to the day of his death, and had SADLER been a step or two higher on the political ladder he might still have escaped detection. Who knows what is going on behind the thick curtains of official life, or what new victims may even now be falling within the toils of privileged cupidity?

All the compensation which Mr. COX and his family have ever obtained was a pension of 200*l.* a year to the former, granted by Mr. PITT, and pensions of twenty pounds each to his two unmarried daughters. His sole surviving son has also within the last six months received from Lord PALMERSTON a grant of fifty pounds a year. For a loss of 240,000*l.*, incurred in saving to this country 500,000,000*l.*, Mr. COX and his family have been compensated with something between three and four thousand pounds, while those who were at the same time the authors of this spoliation and embezzlers of public funds have been rewarded by titles and large estates.

To say after this that a petition is being prepared, sounds almost like a mockery. As, however, it is the regular and constitutional method of proceeding in such cases, we most heartily recommend all our readers to exert whatever amount of influence they may individually or collectively own to forward its success. The

family—that is, the son and the two daughters—are now unfortunately in a position to make any relief acceptable. But the country must not be content with merely relieving their necessities. It must make them equitable compensation for the wrong sustained by their father. It must not regard them only as deserving objects of charity, but as rightful claimants of property unjustly withheld from them. This is the true spirit in which to regard Mr. COX's petition, and we most sincerely hope that no niggardly parsimony will be allowed to influence the arrangements made for complying with it.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

REMEDIES FOR CRIME.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The current history of the last few months must have startled even the most indifferent into the conviction of the rottenness of the system that has produced such fruits. The religion of forms and ceremonies of worldly show and profession has been on its trial and found lamentably wanting, both as a means of saving the sinners or enlightening their dupes; and there is great danger in the reaction that the real and true will get confounded with the false and spurious; that, indignant at crime, we shall go back to severity and harshness as its cure, instead of going deeper to its cause—the want of true religious principle altogether. Surely, Mr. Editor, nothing but this temporary madness for severity could have led a woman—and a lady—to such cruelty as the case recently reported in the papers describes. I refer to the case of Mr. Christmas and Lady Olivia Sparrow. I am no weak admirer of aristocracy, and respect the laws that have no respect of persons: the magistrate could do only what he did do: but what shall we say of the lady who could thus ruin and destroy for ever the prospects and happiness of a young man, and sink in misery parents, sisters, and friends, and for what?—the value of a few books that she was too rich to ever know the loss of. I am not going to defend crime, and have no sympathy with the criminal merely because he is a gentleman, but I have sympathy with what ought to weigh with all of us. He is young, and the destruction of a whole life's happiness is an unjustly heavy penalty for one act of folly and wrong. And when such a heavy punishment comes from a friend and a woman, it may well read us a lesson, suggestive of the great and lamentable mistakes that can mislead even those who should know better. What is it but this flying to the law of man, and not the law of God, that fills our gaols with the young and rising generation? If in this case of Mr. Christmas the lady had stopped to consider something higher than her own loss and vexation, had wished to save, not ruin, were there not many private ways of correction that would have left hope and peace still possible? Surely there were, and as surely she would have tried them if the belief in dead forms of religion had not shut out the belief in its real and saving mercy in most men and women's minds. This subject, Mr. Editor, is, I believe, deep at the root of the present difficult question of crime, that the simple precepts of mercy applied to the first offences of the young would do more to solve the difficulty than all the reformation schools, good as they are, that can be set up. But unless taken up by some one like yourself, able to direct the public mind in the right direction, late events will only increase the evil, throwing us back to harsh and barbarous severity as its cure, instead of forwards into the wiser, calmer teaching of Christ. You, Mr. Editor, must know better than I can (and my heart bleeds daily for the young lost creatures dragged mercilessly before the judgment seat) of how much crime is caused by this thoughtless love of punishment and hasty belief in the law's sovereign cure for every ill, that throws so many of our young men and women into gaol, and lays the foundation of the future daring criminal. Only this last week—and it is the index to the whole—I have read, of several young men, clerks in counting-houses, hurled to their ruin for their first offence, trusted, tempted, lost for ever before they were one-and-twenty. Are there no means of correction but laws—no reproof, no friend's influence, no means of restitution from their salaries—nothing but this crushing for ever, before ignorant—tempted young things hardly know life has begun? Surely the real criminals are those who place young men in places of trust and temptation before they are capable of resistance; who pay small salaries, and expect high

integrity and capability of resistance to temptation absolutely impossible, and who thus back in the sunshine of prosperity, carelessness, and ease, bought at the price of human souls; these, surely, are the criminals! Let masters remember there is something higher than the mere safety of their money and the success of their schemes; let all who suffer wrong think before they venture to call the law to punish, of the consequences to the sinner, and remember that mercy is the first requirement of God's laws—and then how different would be the result. How sad, but how awful, would be the statistics of First Offences! What a history of youthful folly, ignorance, and imprudence in the criminal, and of what mature hardness, harshness, and want of mercy in the prosecutors! It would read us a good lesson. In how many thousands of cases would the simple obedience to Christ's directions, Forgive as you would be forgiven, have saved from misery and crime.

What have we of hope in the decrease of crime, when by our want of Christian forbearance with the young we are constantly adding a heavy crop to the already large harvest of our middle classes, ready to be the leaders and employers of the lower, less educated criminals? Our reformatories have proved that for the young, even when most depraved, there is still hope by mercy and kindness; is there no mercy and kindness, no patience, except for the very worst? It is for those who first fall that I would plead, and not with magistrates, but with the public—with men and women. It is the want of faith in goodness, mercy, kindness, and forgiveness that is at the root of the evil, and yet we are a Christian nation who profess belief in a Saviour that was all mercy and all forgiveness. Mr. Editor, I trust and hope that you will give this subject your influential support, that you will raise your voice in favour of mercy to the erring and young; urge not merely to be prayed for in our churches, but in our shops, our counting-houses, at our own firesides, and crime will have received one great means of check at its very source. I entreat you, with your able pen, to take up this subject, or with the impetus given to avarice by late losses we shall be in danger of an increase of crime and misery little contemplated.

I must apologize for thus intruding on your valuable space, and shall watch anxiously to see this important subject treated, as you are so well able to treat it, in your valuable paper.

One of its constant readers, subscribers, and admirers,

A FRIEND OF THE YOUNG.

MR. SIDNEY HERBERT, M.P. (says the *Wills Independent*), will become the owner of a considerable amount of property in Odessa, and some other parts of Southern Russia, through the death of Prince Woronzow, whose sister was the mother of the right hon. gentleman.

DR. WAAGEN has transmitted to the *Times* copies of letters from the Berlin Procureur du Roi and from Lord Bloomfield, exonerating him from the charge of being concerned in the recent arrest of Mr. Morris Moore.

ANOTHER LOSS BY THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—Mr. Mayhew, a solicitor, attended at the Worship-street police-office last Saturday, to communicate a case of hardship arising out of the stoppage of the Royal British Bank. The fathers of the scholars attending a Sunday school attached to St. Paul's Church, Finsbury, had collected through the year, by means of small contributions, a sum of 26*l.* odd, which it was intended to divide among the children this Christmas. This money had been deposited in the British Bank, and of course was lost. The managers of the school at first thought, considering the smallness of the sum, and the humble station of those who had collected it, that the money would be paid; but this hope was disappointed, the managers of the bank stating that these particular creditors must take their chance with the rest. When Mr. Mayhew had concluded his statement, Mr. Ham-mill, the magistrate, said he would at once place 5*l.* from the poor-box at the disposal of the trustees, and he had no doubt that, on the publication of the details in the papers, many benevolent rich people would contribute towards placing the little losers in the position they had occupied before the breaking of the bank.

WILLS.—The will of Field-Marshal Viscount Hardinge, G.C.B., has been proved in London under 80,000*l.*; also have been proved the wills of Lieutenant-General Sir John Rolt, K.C.B., K.C.; Sir Edward Sherlock Gooch, M.P. for East Suffolk, 50,000*l.*; Mr. G. Walker, Seymour-house, Jubilee-place, Chelsea, and of New Inn, formerly of Old Jewry, 100,000*l.*

THE SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION.—Mr. Andrews, one of the candidates for the borough of Southampton, has resigned the office of Mayor (which he is obliged to do previous to standing for a place in Parliament), and has paid the five shillings fine, which is always imposed on a person occupying his office who resigns in the course of his term.

THE REPRESENTATION OF GREENWICH.—General Sir William Codrington has issued an address to the Greenwich electors, offering himself as a candidate at the approaching election. He is a supporter of the present Ministry.

Literature.

Societies are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—Edinburgh Review.

THE Lecture delivered by OWEN JONES before the Royal Institute of British Architects on the 15th inst. is now before us, and we can well understand the admiration its masterly exposition of the principles of ornamentation excited. The Lecture is an abstract from the magnificent work just completed by him on *The Grammar of Ornament*, and its object is to point out those principles which have in all ages guided the artists to success; and not to propose any model for imitation. As he well says:—

Ornament, with every people, precedes the development of every other form of Art. Architecture, one of the earliest, adopts ornament, does not create it. As we find that to ornament is, with every people, one of the first natural instincts; so we shall find, that in the exercise of this instinct they could not do otherwise than follow natural laws.

The ornament of a savage, being the result of a natural instinct, is necessarily always true to its purpose; whilst in much of the ornament of civilized nations, the first impulse which generated certain received forms being enfeebled by constant repetition, the ornament is oftentimes misapplied. And instead of first making the most convenient form, and adding beauty, all beauty is destroyed, because all fitness, by superadding ornament to ill-contrived form. If we would return to a more healthy condition, we must even be as little children, or as savages: we must get rid of the acquired and artificial, and return to and develop our natural instincts.

It has been his object to bring into immediate juxtaposition many forms of beauty which every style presents, and, by so doing,

aid in arresting that unfortunate tendency of our time to be content with copying, whilst the fashion lasts, the forms peculiar to any bygone age, without an endeavour to ascertain, generally completely ignoring, the peculiar circumstances which rendered an ornament beautiful, because it was appropriate, and which, as expressive of other wants, when thus transplanted, as entirely fails.

Certain general canons are laid down and illustrated, *e. g.*, the canon of Beauty, which he defines as resulting "from that repose which the mind feels when the eye, the intellect, and the affections are satisfied from the absence of any want;" or that of Decoration, "When an ornament is constructed falsely, appearing to give support which it does not, it fails to engender the feeling of repose by neglecting to satisfy the intellect, however much its beauty and other charms may appeal to the eye and the affections." And he adds:—

If we examine the leaf of a plant or a tree, we shall find that, independently of the beauty of the general form, there is another beauty which arises from the exquisite way in which all the lines on the surface are distributed over its area.

However varied the general outline of the leaf, it will be found to be arranged in masses, the areas of which always diminish in regular proportion. Up the centre of each mass is a main sap-feeder; and as the object clearly is to distribute the sap to the extremities of the leaf in the readiest way, however varied the form, the main sap-feeders will divide the masses into proportionate areas. Every portion of these spaces is again subdivided in the same way; with such perfection, that the skeleton of a dissected leaf presents the appearance of a series of graduated tints in which there is no break.

Now we shall find in all decorative ornament of the best period that this natural law has been instinctively obeyed, not only in the distribution of form on the individual ornament, but also in the general arrangement of a group, and we therefore venture to lay down as an axiom that, in the composition of ornament,—

The general forms should be first cared for; these should be subdivided and ornamented by general lines; the interstices may then be filled in with ornament, which may again be subdivided and enriched for closer inspection.

We can only squeeze in one more passage:—

All junctions of curved lines with curved, or of curved lines with straight, should be tangential to each other.

Nature is said to abhor a vacuum; it may equally be said she abhors an angle. In the whole range of her vegetable productions it will be impossible to find a line hitting on another line, every branch of a tree, every stem of a leaf, every vein upon the leaf, is always softened at the point of junction with another by a re-entering curve. This also is a natural law universally obeyed in the best periods of art, equally violated when art declines. It is always present in Greek ornament, often absent in the ornament of Pompeii.

Another universal law which may be recognized in every work of nature, and which should be observed in every assemblage of forms, as well as in each simple ornament, is, that whenever we recognize perfect harmony in any composition, it will be found that the straight, the inclined, and the curved, are properly balanced and contrasted. When any of these forms are wanting, the eye is as much disturbed by an unsatisfied want as when, looking on any composition of colours, any one of the three primaries is absent. In all the geometrical patterns of the Egyptians and all the Mohammedan races this is especially cared for, as well as by the Greek and by the Gothic architects in all their structures. It is daily and hourly neglected in modern times. It is one of the most serious faults in the decorations of the interiors of houses, and absolutely fatal in articles of costume, where lines are constantly running in one direction uncorrected, and as constantly tending to destroy the repose of the forms which they are designed to decorate and develop.

From the ornamentation of Buildings to that of Books is but a step. How enormously the tendency to ornament books has increased of late years, everyone knows; just as the drama is overdone with scenery and 'getting up,' literature is overdone with engravings; in both cases the appeal is made to our lower faculties instead of to our higher faculties; in both cases a good thing is made injurious to a better. We admit the charm of scenic splendour and of illustrated books, but we think both constantly misapplied. A work of high literature suffers greatly from the intrusion of illustrations. Yet there are works in which illustrations do really illustrate—in which they are aids to the clearer understanding of the text. All scientific, archaeological, or descriptive works belong to this class. A portrait of an Albanian, a Hottentot, or a Greek, conveys more accurate conceptions than

any description; a representation of an animal, an apparatus, or a building, will greatly facilitate the reader's conception of what the author means; but when BROWN forces his bad drawing on us for JULIUS, or MUGGERIDGE represents MACBETH, when SMITH illustrates MILTON, and TOMKINS is bound up with TANNERSON, engravings are eyesores.

So much of general protest. Granted, however, that illustrations are valuable, and considering, moreover, that the present expense of illustrations makes them infrequent in precisely those departments when they would be most valuable, we cannot but regard Signor DAVINCENZI's discovery of Electrography as a great boon. By it these two immense advantages are obtained:—1st, That the artist's own drawing is engraved, his own touches, his own felicities; no engraver comes between him and his work, to alter, and often to spoil it; no stubborn material, like wood, refuses to render the delicate effects he has produced: whatever he can do, he finds reproduced in the engraving. 2ndly, The astonishing cheapness of production, and the rapidity with which copies can be multiplied. These two cardinal points will, we have no doubt, secure Signor DAVINCENZI extensive employment, touching, as they do, both Art and Commerce in their tenderest points. The specimens we have seen of this Electrography are of such marvellous delicacy and felicity, that we venture to suggest to all publishers contemplating the issue of illustrated works that they should at least examine this new process, and save themselves some hundreds of pounds.

The *Revue de Paris*, for the 15th inst., among other papers, contains one of great interest to many of our readers on "Slavery among Christian Nations." The writer undertakes to refute the current assertion that Christianity abolished slavery. Admitting that the spirit of Christian charity is opposed to slavery, and, therefore, must have aided in its abolition whenever that has taken place, he refutes the assertion that Christianity condemned slavery in principle, or that it ever abolished slavery. We cannot follow his argument, which moves through many pages of citation from the Gospels and the Fathers, and reviews the whole course of modern history, but we indicate the existence of the essay to such of our readers as may be interested in the subject.

THE EARLY FLEMISH PAINTERS.

The Early Flemish Painters: Notices of their Lives and Works. By J. A. Crowe and G. B. Cavalaselle.

THERE are few persons familiar with paintings who have not felt their interest aroused in the Van Eycks, Memling, and others of the early Flemish school; although it is true that no school of art has flourished about which so little is known as that of Bruges. "We know more of the painted wonders of Assyria and Egypt," say the authors of the work now under notice, "than we do of the works of the Van Eycks." Nor is there any means of satisfactorily removing this ignorance. In Italy, palaces and churches tell the history of painting; in Germany, we may, by a little perseverance, follow the course of art from the earliest days; but the Netherlands contain no such vestigia: the few Flemish works which still exist are scattered far and wide; nor do public records preserve indications sufficient to satisfy the inquirer. To write a history of the Flemish schools, and to give a full account of its great painters, is therefore one of the desiderata in the history of art. Messrs. Crowe and Cavalaselle have made an attempt to do this in the volume before us, a volume which displays the erudition and patient carefulness of a German treatise, but which also unhappily displays the lifelessness too often noticed in German treatises. The praise of diligence will be unstintingly awarded them; and diligence was indispensable in such a task. But having collected these notes, there was another task awaiting them, namely, the reduction of the notes into a work; and in this latter task they have fallen very short of even moderate demands. Their work is heavily and ungrammatically written. The biographies are without spirit; the criticisms vague and wearisome. The consequence of this imperfect literature is, that their work, although valuable to all persons curious about this chapter of the History of Painting, will be of little interest to the general public.

Another defect must be noticed. The book is liberally illustrated with copies of the most celebrated paintings, and these illustrations form an important element in the attractiveness of such a work; but grateful as the reader will be for such aids to a correct understanding of the school of art in question, he will notice with some disappointment that the faces of the various figures represented are not in the least what the painter drew; they are modernized, and sometimes look as if they had been copied from a *Keepsake*, or *Christmas Book*. This infidelity on the part of the draughtsman throws a certain doubt over the fidelity with which the attitudes and draperies are copied. When will men learn that truth is everywhere preferable to 'idealization'?

To the student, however, this book is, as we said, a valuable mass of notes, if not an admirable whole. From its livelier details we will select the following for our reader's interest. It gives us the idea Louis XI had of what would be a proper portrait of his royal self, and may be contrasted with Cromwell's celebrated injunctions to Lely—threatening the painter with forfeiture of his reward if he omitted a single wart on the face of his sitter:—

There is no improbability in supposing that Louis XI sent to Belgium for the painter. His desire for a good production was evidenced on more than one occasion. In 1468, journeying to Peronne, he stopped for an hour at Noyon to visit the cathedral. There he saw a very ancient picture of the crowning of Charlemagne, so old and venerable that he expressed a desire to have a copy of it, and he requested that he might have "ung pourtrait de ce pourtrait." The canons, but too anxious to do his pleasure, acceded to his wish, and record the act as follows: "Anno 1468, capitulo facto, die ultima Augusti, declaratur per operarios convocandos expensa pro imagine Caroli Magni collocanda in Capella Sancti Eligii, retro chorum in fronte ecclesie, et descriptum in papyrum pro extendendo domino regi (Ludovico undecimo) ut ipse

petit et voluit fieri." His confidence in the painters of his country was slight, as we know from his efforts to obtain a good portrait of himself. He first tried Fouquet, a quaint old imitator of the Flemings, who failed. The task was then entrusted to a sculptor, who also failed. Michel Colombe was set aside as well as Fouquet, and Colin d'Amiens was chosen.

"Mestre Colin," says Gaignières, addressing an order from his master to the Amiens painter, "you must make the portraiture of our sire the king; that is to say, you shall show him kneeling on a flag and his dog near him; let him have his hat between his hands, and let his hands be joined in prayer, and his sword be hanging by his side. Let his corset hang behind his shoulders, showing both its ends. You must let him have, besides, his feet in buskins and not in hose: all this as honestly as is possible. Let him be dressed as a huntsman, with the finest face that you can give him, so as he shall be both young and plump, the nose a little long and somewhat high, as you well know, and you must not make him bald. Your order, therefore, must be this:—

The nose aquiline;
The hair a little long behind;
The collar somewhat low;
The order very long, and St. Michael well made out.
Item, the corset scarfwise;
The sword a little short, in fashion of arms.
Item, the thumbs erect, and the hat well down."

Is not this pitiable?

From another part of the work we transcribe the legend which was destined to remind the burghers of Brussels that their town-hall was the hall of justice. Van der Weyden had to illustrate the legend:—

"Herkenbald the magnificent, the powerful and illustrious, excepted no one when he sat in judgment; and ever tried, with equal justice, the cause of rich or poor, of a relative or a stranger.

"Whilst recumbent on his couch one day, he heard a tumult in a neighbouring apartment, the piercing shrieks of a woman being most audible. Inquiring the cause, the truth at first was hidden from him. But at length, one more frightened than the rest confessed. 'I will answer, lord; your sister's son, who is feared and honoured second only to yourself, is pressing a girl against her will, and hence the clamour.' Hearing this, and satisfied with its truth, the elder ordered his nephew, who was dear to him, to be instantly hung. But the senechal, to whom the order was transmitted, feigned obedience, and set the culprit free, charging him to seek a hiding-place; then, proceeding to Herkenbald, declared the sentence to have been carried out. On the fifth day, however, the youth, thinking that his uncle had forgotten his offence, came into his open door. The judge, on seeing him, beckoned him with kindly words; and seizing him by the hair, and with a knife in his right hand, severed the head from the body. In his zeal for justice he killed him. Herkenbald then perceived that his health was failing; and sending for his bishop, confessed to him all his sins, with many tears, and great contrition; omitting, however, the act by which he had deprived his nephew of life a few days before; upon which the bishop said: 'Wherefore dost thou conceal the homicide by which thou didst deprive thy nephew of his life?' The old judge retorted: 'I consider this no sin, nor that it is a crime to be remitted by Heaven.' On which the bishop replied: 'Confess this crime, and God will take compassion on thee; else canst thou not partake of the Sacrament of the Lord.' But the noble man said to him: 'I take God to witness that no hatred, but zeal for justice made me kill my nephew, who was dear to me; and though thou deniest me the viaticum on that account, I hope to have communion by the Spirit.' Hearing this, the bishop then retired, without administering to the dying man the consolations of religion. Being soon recalled, however, the judge then said to him: 'See if the Sacrament of the body of Christ be in its resting-place; and when it appeared that it was not in the open pyx, the sick man subjoined: 'Behold that which thou broughtest with thee and deniest me hath not been refused; and then he showed him openly, before all, the host, which he held in his mouth and between his teeth; which, when the bishop saw, magnifying God for so great a miracle, he no longer doubted that it had taken place as the reward of justice."

Many curious details will be found in this volume, some of them such as would tempt us into comment were our limits wider; such, for example, as the remarkable fact that painting was a *guild* in the Netherlands; young aspirants were bound apprentices to painting as to any ordinary trade; by this close corporation the secrets of the art were jealously preserved, and the secret of oil-painting was withheld from the Italians till Antonello came to Bruges, and Van der Weyden went to Italy.

LETTERS FROM HEAD-QUARTERS.

Letters from Head-Quarters; or, the Realities of the War in the Crimea. By an Officer on the Staff. 2 vols. With a Portrait of Lord Raglan and Plans.

Murray.

THESE are two volumes of letters addressed from the Crimea to friends of the author in England. The position of the author at head-quarters gave him great opportunities of acquiring sound information. He stood in an intimate relation to the commander-in-chief, and necessarily became aware of matters that were concealed from the public and the general correspondents of the camp, both lay and military. It is, therefore, for that kind of secret information which we should look in these volumes; and in that information the Staff Officer hopes we shall find facts that refute many, if not all, of the accusations showered upon Lord Raglan in 1854-55. The purpose of publication is a fair one. It would, however, we conceive, have been more effectually answered, if the writer, instead of publishing letters that necessarily contain a host of trivialities, had written an original work from the authentic data that must be within his reach? In that case the book would have been half the size, the vindication of Lord Raglan relieved from the insignificant details that overlay it now; and the author would have made a contribution to military history. As it is, the Staff Officer has only made an addition to the materials—a valuable addition, it is true—which are accumulating for the use of the historian of the war.

One of the prevailing ideas in 1854-55 was, that the French were our superiors in all but actual fighting—that their arrangements were better, their military skill greater, that in promptness they far surpassed the British, and so on. What are the facts? Why, until the 7th June, 1855, when Pelissier carried the Mamelon, the operations of the French were comparatively a series of failures and shortcomings. Neither their military skill, nor their administration, nor their promptness were equal to ours. These assertions, we admit, require proofs. Very good. What was the state of things in Bulgaria, on the eve of the Crimean expedition? That expedition was resolved upon at the end of July. "The French said they would

certainly be ready by the 8th of this month (August). Lord Raglan said he thought the 14th (to-day) the earliest period at which he could be prepared. A few days ago the Marshal sent to say that he must have ten days longer, and said that their arrangements could not be completed until the 20th instant. Yesterday, that is, on the day named by the English chief, "it was officially reported to Lord Raglan that everything was ready for the embarkation of the English troops." So much for promptitude and superior administration. In the meantime came the cholera. There is a strong opinion that we suffered more than the French from that visitation. What says our Staff Officer, writing on the 6th of September?—

The French (I was told by one of their officers high on the staff) have lost nearly 7000 men dead of cholera and fever, and have at this moment from 12,000 to 15,000 men in their various hospitals. This number of sick men require upwards of 4000 effective men as extra hospital orderlies and camp guards and cooks, &c. &c., so that their army is probably 25,000, men less than on its leaving France. The English have lost under 700 men altogether, and we have at the present time in our various hospitals 1000 men under medical treatment; but I am glad to say many of these are but slight cases. For instance, a week ago, we had 2400 men in hospital, and since that period 500 have returned to their duty.

And what is more remarkable, the greater part of this loss was incurred in that expedition to the Dobrudscha which was so utterly useless from any point of view. Marshal St. Arnaud was a brilliant but flighty soldier. He sadly wanted persistence and punctuality. In July he was for the expedition, but in the middle of August he seems to have altered his mind. "The following are said to be the opinions of the 'chiefs,'" writes the Staff Officer on the 14th of August. "Lord Raglan, Sir George Brown, Sir Edmund Lyons, Admiral Bruat, for; Marshal St. Arnaud, Admirals Dundas and Hamelin, against it." Nor had the vacillation ceased, even when the troops had put to sea. On the 8th of September, Marshal St. Arnaud proposed to adopt that plan which afterwards became known as the Emperor's, namely, to land at Kaffa, seize Arabat and Kerch, and if a march on Sebastopol were impracticable, to winter at Kaffa. Of course the adoption of such a plan was then out of the question; Lord Raglan prevailed, and the expedition landed in the Crimea.

"French losses" is another topic on which much ignorance has prevailed. Some people have appeared to believe that the losses of the French before Sebastopol in the winter of 1854-55 were comparatively fewer than our own.

I took the trouble yesterday (January 22) to make inquiries of two or three officers high in the Etat-major; one told me they [the French] had about 23,000 non-effective men a month ago, but that he believed it had since increased. Another said that last week they had 27,000 men sick in the army in the East; and the third stated that they had 7000 men in the field hospitals in the Crimea, and about 16,000 in their different hospitals in Turkey. It is a well-known fact that the French always make out their sick in as small numbers as they possibly can, so, if one takes the medium of their statements, one may fairly put the French sick at upwards of 34,000 men.

On the 12th of February, he writes:—

I may mention to you what was told me yesterday by a staff officer attached to the French head-quarters, to show you that the losses of our allies in sick have been in proportion as great as our own. He said that 117,000 men of all ranks have left France and Algeria to form the army of the East since March, 1854; and that they have now only 84,000, and of these upwards of 7000 are sick in the Crimea.

On another point the administration of the two armies comes into contrast. Here is a paragraph from a letter dated March 17, 1855:—

A very large number of men are now huddled; upwards of 700 of these wooden residences have been brought up to camp and erected. They would be capable of holding some 17,500 men, but, as many of these huts are used as hospitals, to say nothing of those for officers and regimental stores, probably not more than 14,000 men of the English army have a roof over their heads. An officer of the Etat-major told me two days ago that, according to their last return, the French had 270 huts erected, which, as they crowd them rather more than we do, would be capable of holding 7000 men; however, not more than half of their huts are employed as shelter for the men, so many being used for the Etat-major and the military officers at their different head-quarters.

It was the misfortune of the expedition to the Crimea that it began upon a design which totally failed—the capture of Sebastopol by a *coup de main*. The sufferings of the English troops in 1854-55 may be in a great measure traced to the total change in the character of the operations at the moment when it was resolved to winter in the Crimea, and permanently to hold a position with men and means really inadequate to the task except at a great sacrifice of life. But the alternative was a shameful abandonment of the enterprise, probably at even a greater loss of life than that incurred by holding the plateau during the winter with a handful of men. It was not, however, until the last moment that Lord Raglan consented to believe that they had failed. He was more willing to assume responsibility than his colleagues; he was really more prompt than they. Here is an instance from the battle of the Alma:—

Shortly after on these heights Lord Raglan met Marshal St. Arnaud, where, after mutual congratulations, Lord Raglan wished very much that some pursuit should be made of the retreating Russian army. He offered our cavalry, and I think two or three batteries of artillery, but said the infantry had suffered so much that they could not well advance without weakening too much the English force. Marshal St. Arnaud replied that he could send no infantry, and that his artillery had exhausted their ammunition: indeed he appeared to think that quite enough had been done. Lord Raglan saw that there was no help for it, and therefore much against his will gave up the pursuit. The French had upwards of 12,000 men who had never been engaged, besides the division of Turks (6000 men); whereas we had only the 3rd Division and a portion of the 4th, in all perhaps 7000 men, that had not taken a part in the action; in fact, not more than sufficient for the immediate necessities of the camp.

The next day, when to strike an effectual blow the whole army must have moved, Marshal St. Arnaud proposed an advance.

To this, however, Lord Raglan would not listen; he said he had nearly 3000 wounded English and Russians, and that, as we were over three miles from the sea, it was quite impossible to move them all on board ship under two days. The marshal said he had lost over 1200 men *hors de combat*, and out of that number 1000 wounded had already been moved on board ship, or would be so by the evening. I say, that is what the marshal said; but everybody else said it was a great exaggeration. I know General Forey, who went over the whole of their field of battle, put their loss at between 700 and 800 at the outside; but he also added, that since leaving Kalamita Bay they had lost nearly 300 men dead from cholera; and it was stated

by several French officers that this number had been added to the list of killed and wounded at Alma! It appears strange that, if the French had 1200 men *hors de combat*, they should only have three officers killed, which is all the marshal admits.

We bore the brunt of the Alma; we were destined to bear the brunt of Inkerman, and for a long time to take the heaviest duty at the siege. Thus it came about:—

In the evening [of the 26th] Lord Raglan had a consultation with General Canrobert, when the latter proposed that the allied armies should change their relative positions, viz. that the English, instead of being on the left, should take the right; this the French urged we ought to allow, as, having obtained possession of Balaklava, we had a harbour in which to land our material, and that therefore they had only left to them the bays of Kamiesch and Kazatch, near Cape Chersonese, for the same purpose, and it would obviously be far more convenient for them to be encamped as near as possible to the spot where their stores, &c., would be landed. For these reasons Lord Raglan was induced to give way, and thus again occupy the most exposed position, while our allies were protected on both flanks.

The consequence was that we held, with a force numerically inferior to the French, the exposed position of Inkerman on our right and of Balaklava. Lord Raglan was perfectly well aware of the danger to which he was exposed, for he had minutely inspected the whole position; but the numerical inferiority of his troops prevented him from adequately occupying and fortifying it. General Canrobert had promised to reinforce the English on that side, but he failed to perform his promise until after the battle of Inkerman. Before that battle was fought it had been arranged that the assault should take place on the 7th of November. After the battle, Lord Raglan, calculating that the enemy would be demoralized by his defeat, and that, as was actually the case, there would be great confusion in Sebastopol, proposed that the bombardment should be renewed, and that on the 7th the troops should assault the place. But Canrobert would not accept so heavy a responsibility; and it was at this moment only that the *coup de main*, as originally planned, can be said to have failed. It was clear that the army must either remain in the position it held, or abandon the Crimea. Lord Raglan showed his constancy of soul by adopting the former course, although it entailed on an army, numerically small, and comparatively unprepared, duties which have tasked the strongest. Here it is to be regretted that the Staff Officer does not sufficiently inform us of the measures taken to provide for the troops under their new circumstances. Clearly the storm of November, by destroying all the winter clothing, accounts for much, certainly the fact that they were few in number relatively to the work to be done accounts for more, of the sufferings endured by the men; but there still remains a large residue, and the Staff Officer throws but little light on its causes. What he does, however, show very clearly, is, that the cry raised at home about his inactivity, the talk about his being invisible, were without foundation. There is abundant evidence in these volumes to show that he was abroad by day and by night, either in the hospitals, the camps, or the trenches, or inspecting the enemy's position, or surveying that of the Allies.

Early in the siege, Sir John Burgoyne pointed out the Malakoff as the key of the town; the French general did not agree with him, holding that the key of the place was the Flagstaff Bastion. When General Niel, sent by the Emperor, arrived in the Crimea, he at once concurred with Sir John, and in February it was arranged that the French should begin an attack on the Malakoff:—

I understand that this resolution on the part of General Canrobert was finally adopted by the advice of General Niel who differs altogether with General Bizot (Chef du Corps du Génie) as regards the proper point of attack for the reduction of the town; General Bizot's opinion being, as I some time ago mentioned to you, that the Bastion du Mât is its vulnerable point. On the other hand, General Niel takes the view which Sir John Burgoyne has held from the very first, viz. that the Malakoff is the key of Sevastopol. The consequence of this is, that at last the French will adopt the first plan proposed to General Canrobert by Lord Raglan at the suggestion of Sir John Burgoyne. It is now much to be lamented that our allies did not in the first instance give way to Sir John's arguments, as there can be no doubt, humanly speaking, of the capture of the town, if his propositions had been carried out.

Canrobert's conduct became more perplexing every time decisive action was proposed. Thus it was in April.

On the morning of the 24th instant, there was a great Council of War held at the English Head-quarters between the principal generals of the English and French armies, when it was arranged that we should increase our fire again to 120 rounds per gun in the twenty-four hours; and the assault was fixed to take place at 1 p.m. this day. Every preparation was made, the storming parties told off, the smallest details entered into, and, in fact, every precaution taken to insure success. It is not worth while, as the attack never took place, for me to enter into the details; suffice it to say that the English were to have assaulted the Great Redan in two columns, which were to have advanced on each face of the enemy's work. If successful, the capture of the town was looked upon as certain. To render our success more probable, the French were to assault in heavy columns the Mamelon redoubt and the Ouvrages Blancs, and it was thought that the fact of their attacking the former work would so far occupy the enemy in the Malakoff batteries that they would be too much engaged in assisting the Mamelon, to interfere materially in preventing the English assault on the Redan. On the left of the allied siege-works the French were to attack in three distinct places, viz. Bastion du Mât, Bastion Central, and the Bastion de la Quarantaine, and immense masses of infantry were told off for that purpose. Well, on the 25th instant, about mid-day, General Canrobert sent two general officers of his staff to Lord Raglan to inform him that on further consideration he could not allow his troops to assault, as he and his principal generals had come to the conclusion that it was not practicable.

Our readers are well aware of the details of the Kertch expedition. It was a little before this that the French Emperor broached his famous plan for operations in the field. He continued his meddling policy, and to that may be attributed, in part, Canrobert's vacillation. General Pelissier was a man of a different mould. We give two instances of his firmness. Here is a picture of him at the council of war held before the capture of the Mamelon:—

Marshal Pelissier was also present, and made a speech to the officers previous to the Council, in which he stated that he was aware that those whom he then addressed would be very diligent in devising various schemes for the reduction of Sevastopol,

but he begged to inform them, that on the 7th instant the Mamelon Vert, the Ouvrages Blancs, and the Quarries must be taken, adding, "Lord Raglan and I have decided it;"—and he therefore wished to impress upon them, that they were there only for the purpose of arranging and settling the best means of carrying this decision into execution. I understand that here General Bosquet took upon himself to dissent altogether from the views of the Commander-in-Chief, but was immediately stopped by General Pelissier, who begged to remind him of what he had just said—that the attack was decided upon. General Bosquet made no further remark. General Niel then got up, having in his hand a long written statement, which he proceeded to read as follows: "In operations of this kind it is necessary to commence at the beginning. Now to commence with the left." General Pelissier here interrupted him, and pointing to the map, said, "We will suppose the left side not to exist; we will speak as if there was no left. I know you are all gentlemen of genius and science, and could give me good advice if I asked it. But I do not want it. The entire responsibility belongs to Lord Raglan and to me. I have announced to you our determination: the Mamelon Vert, the Ouvrages Blancs, and the Quarries are to be taken on the 7th of June. Now if any of you have suggestions to make as to the means of accomplishing this end, pray state them." You may imagine after this no one was bold enough to go contrary to General Pelissier's wishes, and the French generals for the first time were astonished to find that they had a man of spirit and determination as their chief, whose will was law. After this considerable snubbing, the Council resolved itself into a committee for settling the details and the plan of attack, which was accordingly done, and they also decided that a heavy cannonade should be opened four-and-twenty hours previous; then nothing remained to be arranged but the hour at which the assault was to take place. The French generals were for the most part in favour of an attack "au point du jour," as they said that their men could then be placed in the advanced trenches without being observed by the enemy. This was objected to by the English officers of the Council, as they said daybreak would be the very time at which the enemy would be most likely to be expecting an assault, and consequently be prepared for it. In the middle of the discussion, General Pelissier interfered, and said, "Lord Raglan and I have made our determination on that point also. The attack will take place late in the afternoon, with sufficient time for our troops to get established in the works before dark." The Council was then broken up.

Here is the fellow-picture of the general who dared to disobey the Emperor:—

Shortly before General Pelissier left the French Head-quarters to witness the attack against the enemy's works on the afternoon of the 7th instant, he received a telegraphic message from the Emperor Napoleon, ordering him on no account to assault the Mamelon, as his Majesty considered that it would be attended with defeat and disaster. General Pelissier quietly put the telegram in his pocket, and shortly afterwards mounted his horse and rode off to witness the capture of the Mamelon, &c. When all was over, and he had returned to camp, he showed it in triumph to some officers of his personal staff—a great contrast to General Canrobert's conduct when he received the order for the recapture of the Kertch expedition.

There are many extremely interesting passages in these volumes, throwing light on disputed points, to which we should like to advert; but we trust we have given sufficient proof to our readers that the Letters from Head-quarters will afford much information to those who are anxious to obtain correct impressions of the late war. We cannot close our notice, however, without extracting one passage at the close of the book recounting the relative losses of the Allies.

From the accounts of all who witnessed it, nothing could be worse than the state of the French army during the first quarter of the year 1856. They appear to have been indifferently fed and badly clothed; typhus fever raging at the time among them drove immense numbers into hospital, where their state was truly deplorable. The ambulances were so dreadfully crowded, the medical officers so overworked, that many of their patients were necessarily neglected, added to which there was the greatest want of the most ordinary medicines, and a perfect dearth of medical comforts and even necessities. In the months of January, February, and March, 1856, between 30,000 and 40,000 men of the French army were acknowledged by the authorities to have died of disease; this being over one-fifth of their force in the East. Yet during the severest weather of the months of December, January, and February, 1854-55, when the English army was suffering its greatest hardships, and its most severe loss from sickness and disease, the deaths in proportion were not quite one-tenth of the strength of the British force then in the East. During the war in the East the English loss was as follows:—Killed in action, 158 officers and 1775 men; died of their wounds, 51 officers and 1870 men; died of disease, 55 officers and 15,669 men. It would appear also that 2873 men were discharged from the service in consequence of being incapacitated from disease or wounds; which makes a total loss during the two years of the war (from the 31st of March, 1854, to the 31st of March, 1856) of 264 officers and 22,187 men.

This entirely agrees with all we have heard from other sources. British army administration is not perfect, but bad as it is, it shows very favourably by the side of the administration of one of the armies of despotism.

CHRISTMAS NOVELS AND TALES.

Isabel: the Young Wife and the Old Love. By J. C. Jeaffreson, Author of "Crewe Rise." 3 vols. (Bentley).—Mr. Jeaffreson's novel is a clever picture of modern life, a book written in an easy, careless, accomplished way, by a man who has seen the world. The manners illustrated are those of the West-end, with rural excursions, and glimpses of the moralities of Paris. The tone is that of light, allusive satire—satire of persons and institutions, practices and opinions. Mr. Jeaffreson has studied to considerable purpose the various phases of polite society, and is happily exempt from the vice of exaggeration. His novel is consequently wiser than novels usually are, its irony being as temperate as its sentiment. Moreover, it has a flavour of originality to distinguish it from the rank and file of three-volume romances. A mystery hangs about Frances Leatheby which is not unravelled without exciting a strong interest. Lord Bridgen is delineated with the care and closeness of real portraiture, a little impaired by the Cagliostro tinge with which Mr. Jeaffreson has sought to render him picturesque. Isabel is at first exceedingly pretty, and, at last, uncommonly amiable. Nor is the scholarly pluralist less effectively sketched. Certain passages of the story, however, which turn upon the second love of the young wife, are of a very conventional stamp, and detract from the interest of the whole. We know, not long after Hugh is introduced, that the Reverend Harrie Dillingborough will join what actuaries call the decrement to make room for a more appropriate husband for Isabel. Various other commonplace occurrences, but they are specks upon the surface, the general tenour of the

work bearing, as we have said, a strong impress of originality. And now being the time for circulating librarians to send down to country-houses parcels of novels and tales to be read in the Christmas evenings, when the red curtains are unfurled across the windows, and the red fire glows through the room, and the lights burn cheerfully and clearly, and people sit at ease, pleasantly tired, let not *Isabel* be forgotten, for it is a fresh, healthy, entertaining book.

The Old Monastery. By the Author of "Clara." From the Original. By Lady Wallace. 2 vols. (Bentley).—We suspect that Lady Wallace has had some trouble with *The Old Monastery*. It seems to have been not a little 'adapted.' But the author of *Clara* is not a bad novelist, although Sir Archibald Alison thinks him a good one. He can only dream, indeed, of one species of heroine—a dancer; but dancers are sometimes elegant and pretty, and there is no serious objection to a second romance of gilt and gauze, of pink satin skirts, and silver wings. However, we should be glad to see what the favourite of Edinburgh can do outside an opera-house. Not that an opera-house is the only interior in the present case, but that a *figurante* is the heroine, while the green-room and the stage are the central scenes. The "old monastery" is not a monastery at all; but a place that was monastic once and is now inhabited by washerwomen, receivers of stolen property, and others. Of the personages whose good or evil fortunes fill the drama, the most interesting is, though by no means of course, the heroine, Maria, an orphan, the daughter of a female lamp-lighter in a German town and an Italian peer. She is thrown upon the mercy of the world, and the world, personified by a most sedate and admirable laundress, takes charge of her, and, faithful to her mother's wish, educates the child for the royal ballet. Her vicissitudes are narrated with pleasant simplicity. Dubel, her early friend, a journeyman tailor, but afterwards Dubelli, the chief of a dancing corps, is an aspiring individual, who perpetually imagines himself wealthy and superb, a cross-legged Alnaschar, whose eccentric virtues are very humorously described. Very original, too, is the young doctor, a priest of letters, who sleeps in a passage on a settle, and carries a chart of the town in his pocket. Whenever he incurs a debt in any particular street, he marks it with red ink, so as to avoid unwelcome greetings, and gradually cuts off his communications with the principal parts of the town. The account of his first and last attempt at dramatic interpretation is a piece of somewhat low but effective comedy. Other characters, moving and having their being upon a similar level, are also successfully sketched; but the dignified people are mere absurdities. When the brilliant dancing beauty marries a noble, who turns out to be her father's nephew, we recognize in the husband thus blessed only a well-shaped simpleton. Baron Carl, also, is a good-natured walking gentleman. Pauline's portrait is faint and watery, the baroness's a theatrical daub. But the court scenes are cleverly represented, as well as the rehearsals and performances at the royal theatre. The most serious fault of the novel is one of construction. The writer did not know where to end; and, as Lady Wallace has an obvious talent for adaptation, she should have remembered Canning's rule—to come to a close when you have reached the conclusion. This has not been attended to in *The Old Monastery*. When the play is finished, when the climax is past, when all the threads are unravelled, the good rewarded and the evil chastised, the novelist goes on describing dreams, dialogues, and delusions utterly wanting in interest, and mere excrescences upon the story. Otherwise, the book is entertaining enough. It is lively, cleverly written, and, in some respects, the scheme of the romance is originally conceived.

Sydney Fielding: the Domestic History of a Gentleman who Served under their late Majesties George IV. and William IV. By Edwin Keene. 2 vols. (Bentley.) A gentleman is married to a lady, but another lady is consumed by a secret love for him. Ultimately, the first is drowned that the second may marry. Such is the beginning, and such the end, of Mr. Keene's romance. Not very new, the reader will say. But very ridiculous, we will add. The mouldy notion is dished up with the overdone materials of a melodrama—an interrupted wedding, a white-armed Hermione falling to the ground like a corpse—the same Hermione engulfed by the roaring waves, and sundry spasmodic dialogues, broken by stage explanations and directions. Sydney Fielding is an officer, a sort of vulgarized Esmond, and Julia is his wife, he being, morally, a maniac, and she, immorally, a dragon. But the lustres of history shine upon the scene—the Duke of Wellington, Prince Metternich, George IV. and William IV.—the Duke chatty, the Prince majestic, King George a swollen fop, and King William an urbane nonentity. So bold is Mr. Keene, and so bright are his materials. Preliminarily, as we have said, Julia, "her figure ethereal with flake-like lace," awaits the wedding bell. She is the customary Cryselephantine of novels—marble, red, and ebony. But no marriage ensues, and the flake-like lace is put away to yellow for a year or so. Then cometh Sydney Fielding, who dismisses the said Julia by a note; but, during an interview, is restored to favour, and marries. The Parsonage garden, however, is made the arena of certain dramatic scenes, in which Julia, Fielding, Frances, and Verion converse and "pass on." Several times the marginal record is repeated, "they pass on." At last, after Fielding has talked about coppery tints and lurid crimson, Frances and Verion change hands, and so—"Fielding and Julia meet them, and they pause all together for some moments. Then Fielding walks forward with Frances, and Verion and Julia go round the lawn on the other side, so that the couples pass and re-pass each other again." Let us listen. Frances says she is giddy. Fielding says they had better go in-doors. Frances had rather not. The novel is absurd and dull throughout.

Giulio Branchi: the Story of a Tuscan. Related by Himself, and translated from the Italian MS. by Alfred Elwes. (Addey and Co.).—Mr. Alfred Elwes is a proficient translator, but we should have preferred the pure Italian romance of *Giulio Branchi* to a composite version with omissions and variations unlimited. Mr. Elwes, no doubt, is a magnanimous adaptor, willing that the defects of the volume should be imputed to himself, and the merits to 'his author'; still, in the double process, the story has probably lost some of its Tuscan light and warmth. We may commend it, nevertheless, as spirited and amusing, and as possessing a certain interest for those who wish to be edified in their idle hours. That is to say, there are some

picturesque descriptions of the Sardinian solitudes, and of banditti life, which contrast almost grotesquely with the roscate elegance and conventionalities of the later chapters. Giulio Branchi is a vagabond of Leghorn, who, after adventures that would have satisfied Gil Blas, becomes at length a gentleman, and marries a flower of England, Annie Leslie. The book is his autobiography. It is full of action, change, surprise. Now you are in a vast, circular, black-roofed cavern, lighted by monstrous lamps, with planks of gigantic length and thickness placed upon trestles, and covered with loaves and wine-flasks. This is the brigand's hall. Then Giulio, who has so far improved from his vagabond manners as to imprint upon the "firm, yet velvety surface" of a "beautiful arm, which glittered with gems," "a kiss of trembling devotion," follows the velvet-armed lady into a boudoir, shaped like a tent, the sides being of grey figured silk, the roof of sky-blue, powdered with silver stars, and a fragrant lamp swinging in the centre. This is the marchesa's bower, and these are the extremes, the east and west, the Siberia and Assyria, of the Tuscan's fancy.

Florence Templar (Smith, Elder, and Co.).—*Florence Templar* is a limp story of contemporary life, with an epidemic at the close. The poor insane Sir Edward dies, Fanny's gentle heart is broken, the cold, proud lady perishes, Florence herself, the brilliant and high-souled, perishes fourthly. Whenever the writer has reached a proper point for an ejaculation, the euphonious name of Florence Templar is applied. Chapter the second ends, "I dreamed all night of Florence Templar;" the fourth, "Ah, Florence! Florence!" the fifth, "Ah, that morrow!" the last, "Oh, my friend! Oh, Florence!" There is nothing repulsive in the book; but there is no reason why we should be afflicted by a record of suicidal insanity, woe, misery, and morbid tears—all without plan or purpose.

Sidney Grey: a Tale of School Life. By the Author of "Mia and Charlie." (Bogue).—A better Christmas tale, in every respect, than *Mia and Charlie*. It is a simple, cheerful, lively book, overflowing with good feeling, and likely to interest the young, while no one need be old enough to despise its sentiment or its humour.

The Good Old Times: a Tale of Auvergne. By the Author of "Mary Powell." (Hall, Virtue and Co.).—A tissue, partly historical, is woven into this tale, which is written with grace and power. It is a story of the Protestants of Auvergne; the pictures of the period are drawn with care, the incidents are described in a style of refined familiarity, the dialogues are neat and natural—there is a real fifteenth century shape and colour in the entire narration. The writer has evidently acquainted herself with all that is contained in the chronicles of the Huguenot conflicts, in which the war of the *roturiers* against the bishop and burghers of De Puy forms a conspicuous episode. A story constructed with so much care, and inspired by sentiments so warm and gracious, is deserving of more than common praise.

The Sisters of Solvay: a Tale of the Sixteenth Century. By C. S. W. (Nisbet and Co.).—This also is a story the incidents of which are attributed to a period of religious strife and intellectual change. The scene is chosen in Switzerland, so often the centre of war, and the citadel of liberty. But the narrative is subordinate to the colloquies, which are sharp and didactic, and stiff with peremptory doctrine. There are innumerable hits at *crem* and sundry profound theological questions are put in their proper light, with that ineffable ease which is sure to be observable when the authors of sketchy tales undertake to play Pascal in an airy manner and to confound Liguori and Rome. If people who have a moral to inculcate would choose a more indirect and less emphatic method of exposing 'the idolatrous and bloody Church of Rome,' there might be more converts in the world, and there would certainly be more good-will.

Jessie Cameron: a Highland Story. By the Lady Rachel Butler. (W. Blackwood and Sons).—*Jessie Cameron* is a natural, graceful story, intensely Scottish, and more likely to be popular on the north than on the south of the Tweed. Yet why so? It is astonishing to remark how Scott's Scotticisms are relished by English readers. And, to say the truth, the Lady Rachel Butler, Highland as she is in her character, her landscapes, costumes, and incidents, does not incessantly mock our melodious sympathy with "anch," "hecht," "daffin," "nicht," and "gang." Her *Jessie* is a sweet, heroine, simply and tenderly portrayed. We should counsel Lady Butler to write more, in this vein.

Daisy's Necklace, and What Came of It: a Literary Episode. By T. B. Aldrich. (Low and Son).—Mr. Aldrich's preface is a warning. It is facetious. And that dreary attribute predominates to the last page, except where incoherent sentimentalism interrupts the parody.

The Life and Remarkable Adventures of a Dog. By Thomas Millar. (Dean and Son).—This excellent little volume, illustrated by Harrison Weir, will please all but the most precocious children. It is vivified by quaint and cordial humour. Not Mr. Jeaffreson, nor Lady Butler, nor even Mr. Edwin Keene, will be jealous of the favours accorded by an infantine public to this book of pictures marvellous and anecdotes incredible.

BADEN POWELL ON CREATION.

The Unity of Worlds and of Nature: Three Essays on the Spirit of the Inductive Philosophy; the Plurality of Worlds; and the Philosophy of Creation. By the Rev. Baden Powell. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Longman & Co.

We noticed the first edition of this work at such length, that it is unnecessary to do more at present than indicate the improvements of the new edition, and reiterate our admiration of the candid, philosophical, and truth-loving spirit in which it is written. It would be difficult to find many clergymen of the Church of England having the courage and candour to express views so divergent from what is generally considered 'correct'; for although many clergymen are also men of science, and investigate sciences on philosophical, not theological principles, yet even they, generally, contrive to betray their theological prepossessions on every topic which will, on any pretext, admit such betrayal. To be consistently scientific is more than they can find courage or philosophy for. To keep a broad line of demarcation between Science and Religion, to free science from theological interference, seems only possible to them in those cases where science has

such demonstrative and demonstrated security, that any interference of theology would be conspicuously absurd. The Rev. Baden Powell, however, is throughout consistent. The vexed and uncertain questions of the plurality of worlds, the fixity of species, and the Development Hypothesis are treated by him on the same inductive methods, as the un vexed questions of Astronomy or Physics. Herein lies the value of his work; the charm of style, and the perfect candour of temper, render his exposition remarkable.

In this new edition, he has liberally availed himself of the suggestions of friends and critics, to correct and elucidate, as well as to enlarge the work, which has greatly profited by the revision. From the new matter we are tempted to add the following extract from his note on Feuerbach's Essence of Christianity, a work he has read with his usual candour, and praises with his usual courage:—

Whatever may be thought of Feuerbach's speculations as a theory of real Christianity, they certainly evince a deep insight into the working of the tendencies of human nature towards those corruptions and excesses which too often usurp the name of Christianity, with which he seems to confound it, and the study of which fully explains, on a common principle, the antagonism between that fanatical spirit in its diversified forms and all philosophical views. To those views, even in themselves, the vulgar mind feels a natural antipathy; and when to these the demands of superstition are added, we have a ready clue to all the delusions, extravagances, and incoherences popularly broached on such subjects, which are but the expression of a religious animosity against whatever tends to humiliate man's imagined self-importance, some instances of which have been adverted to in these Essays.

Hence we may understand the pious horror with which all new discoveries and applications of the powers of nature are regarded; hence the sacred jealousy of inhabitants in other planets; hence the profaneness of the nebular hypothesis, "the dull and dangerous heresy of the age;" hence the still more flagrant wickedness of the theory of development, and the high merit of those scientific men who pander to the popular religious appetite by denouncing such views; hence the sin of geology, and the righteousness of those who seek to do away the offence even by the most transparent subterfuges and evasive compromises.

The same spirit descends, on the one hand, to dictate a religious faith in the existence of live loads immured in solid rock from the creation, or full-grown animals brought forth out of the earth; on the other, soars to the assurance that the whole universe is merely subservient to the supreme dignity and importance of man—the planets created only to be the locality of his future existence—the commencement of his species the only epoch worthy the name of creation—the earth, as his abode, the moral centre of the universe, while its position as the physical centre is but reluctantly denied, nay, may be even still open to question. The rotation of the moon on its axis is authoritatively condemned! and that of the earth itself rests on arguments little better! Foucault's experiment (so eagerly grasped at by the Copernicans) has been explained on quite other principles!

We are thus in all points veering fast towards the old and orthodox Ptolemaic doctrine, which will, doubtless, soon be stamped with the imprimatur of the Inspectors, and taught in our national schools, along with the creation of the world in six days, as indisputable Scripture truth, and all impugners of either handed over to the ecclesiastical tribunals.

TWELVE MONTHS WITH THE BASHI-BAZOUKS.

Twelve Months with the Bashi-Bazouks. By Edward Money, Lieut.-Colonel, Imperial Ottoman Army, and late Captain, Bashi-Bazouks. Chapman and Hall.

This is a pleasant book, written in a light, racy style—in fact, that most agreeable of all styles in which the occurrences seem jotted down without premeditation just as they spring up in the mind. Incident after incident, rapidly told, keeps alive the attention and carries the reader along at a good round pace, so that when, after an hour and a half's reading, the end is reached, it is unexpected, and undesired. Captain Money has been thrown amongst scenes of a novel and striking character. The novel and the striking have charms for him. He has an eye to the picturesque. He has also by no means a feeble faculty of depicting, in simple colours, the various military, social, and physical phenomena that he has witnessed, and which he thinks worthy to describe. It is well to offer observations judicious and sound, in our opinion, about army matters, the results of his experience, and even to be censorious, though politely so, upon those above him. This gives a dash to the tone of the work. He may hereafter be looked upon as an authority, or examined before a commission of inquiry. At all events, he has spoken out, and the truth may take its chance.

About the middle of July, 1855, Mr. Money, holding then no commission in any army, thought he would see how things were going on around Sebastopol. In the Dardanelles, on his way out, he overheard the Queen's messenger entreating the captain of his vessel to stop the steamer, as he had despatches to deliver to General Beatson, commanding the Bashi-Bazouks, or Osmanli Irregular Cavalry, as they were afterwards called, on that shore. The captain refused, as it was not one of his halting places. The messenger was perplexed. In this dilemma, Mr. Money offered to convey the despatches from Gallipoli, which he did in a riding-dress consisting of nothing but leather—brown withal—leather breeches, leather waistcoat, and leather coat. At the camp all was in delectable confusion. In front of the commandant's house—a low, rambling two-storied building—groups of Arabs, Affghans, Turks, Persians, and Albanians were lounging about in uniforms no two of which were alike, smoking and chatting. Everything presented a free-and-easy appearance.

He is introduced to the chief, and presents the despatches. The following conversation then ensues:—General Beatson: "How long were you in India?"—"Ten years." "Were you with your regiment the whole time?"—"No, sir." "Ah, you want service with me?"—"I do, sir; and if you have anything to offer me, I shall be thankful for it." "You can ride?"—"I can." "What rank did you hold in India, or rather what rank do you hold, for I suppose you still belong to the service?"—"No, I left it eighteen months ago. I was but a lieutenant when I left it." "Well, I will recommend you for a captaincy. Yes, Captain Money (with an emphasis on the rank), you stand posted to the—th regiment as adjutant." There is something dramatic in the rapidity of this appointment and promotion. The turn things had taken was perfectly unexpected, yet not so startling as some other cases on record. A Mr. S. a short time before had brought a letter of introduction to General Beatson from Lord Stratford.

The general was in need of officers at the time. Mr. S. presented himself, had audience of the commandant, and left the audience chamber, which he had entered a few minutes before a plain un military Mr. —, as Major S., in command of an Arab regiment of Bashi-Bazouks, with pay and emoluments equivalent to at least 1100*l.* per annum; but by a very, to him, lucrative mistake at the War Office, he was gazetted as lieutenant-colonel, which increase of title he derived the benefit of till the disbanding of the corps at the end of the war. Another instance was that of Mr. G., a perfect linguist, who came from Smyrna. He was appointed first as head-interpreter, and, for services thus rendered, was shortly after made a lieutenant-colonel, and generally spoken of as Colonel G. Many young clerks who had thrown aside their pens and leaped down from the counting-house stools to embark for the East, procured similar employment because they were on the spot. Of such materials were the officers destined to discipline and keep in order the wild herds of Turkey and Albania made. The descriptions of the men, their costumes, their horses, &c., which Captain Money introduces, are very picturesque. He respects the invaluable rule of not giving unnecessary pictures, or saying too much on one subject. A few strokes of his pen convey a complete sketch of what he wishes to place before the reader.

The first portion of his book delineates the laxity of discipline and order in the camp, and more than alludes to the incapacity of General Beatson in his management of the wild and irregular soldiers under his command. He does not wish to sit in judgment upon his former chief; Captain Money only acts like the indulgent schoolmaster towards a favourite pupil. He censures his conduct and exposes his errors, but forbears to let the lash fall full upon his shoulders.

The following lively picture is a good skit upon camp-life as it presented itself to Captain Money in the Bashi-Bazouks camp at the period of his arrival. "Why do you keep those big boots on?" said Colonel M.—; "take them off and lie down there" (pointing to a half-sofa, half-bed), "and have another pipe; you must learn to smoke with the Bashis." "Alas, it is an accomplishment I've possessed some years; but tell me, is there nothing to do?" "How do you mean?" "No regimental business?" "Well, none that I know of." "Who does your writing work in the regiment?" "No one, I won't have any. It's an irregular force, and no red-tapeism is wanted." "But still there must be some writing—muster rolls, pay abstracts, and things of that sort." "Oh! yes, there is, but it's easily done. You're not smoking." "Thank you, I've smoked enough. What do you do with yourself all day?" "Eat a little, drink a little, and sleep a great deal." "Ah! and what do the men do with themselves?" "Much the same." "But you give them something else to occupy themselves; you have parade sometimes?" "Yes, two or three times a week; it won't do to work them too much." "Why?" "They'd kick if you did." "What—the men or the horses?" "Both, I expect; they are not accustomed to it."

This lamentable display of indolence on the part of their superior officers gave the Bashi-Bazouks the idea that the English were deficient in courage as well as capacity. As a natural result they became insubordinate and insolent, and at length, through the weakness of General Beatson, so unmanageable, that he was recalled and General Smith placed in his stead. At this point, or rather after a short sojourn in the Crimea, our author was sent to Manastir to take the command of a body of recruits collected there. He found the same spirit of independence and reluctance to obey orders in these new levies. But he determined to make the experiment of bringing them into something like discipline; the experiment was a difficult, nay, dangerous one. But by firmness, by leniency, by cultivating the good-will of his soldiers, he overcame the difficulties and the dangers, and eventually produced a regiment capable of acting in unison with regular cavalry. To us the experiment is interesting; as it shows where we may look for valuable aid in the event of a similar war breaking out again.

PUNCH'S ALMANACK.

The stationers' shop-windows are now filled with the thousand and one pleasant pictorial fancies which this season of the year always brings forth. These illustrations are among the most agreeable attendants upon Christmas; and we are involuntarily led to wonder how the people got on without them less than twenty years ago. Fancy walking along the streets, and seeing none of these Yuletide woodcuts smiling at you as you pass!

It is not our province to criticize such of our illustrated contemporaries as come within the category of newspapers; but the genial *Almanack* of Mr. Punch claims, and must receive, a word of notice, though of course the reader will understand that we are merely enjoying with him that with which he must by this time be fully acquainted. And let it be at once admitted that the subjects of Mr. Leech's drawings are such as we have had several times before; yet what life, humour, and grace—what perennial freshness and exhaustless wealth of fancy—are exhibited in these hackneyed themes of Cockney hunting and fishing, juvenile mischief-making and impudence, young ladyism (and old ladyism too, for the matter of that), domestic felicities and domestic troubles! How wonderful this power of producing perpetual new faces, each of which is an absolute portrait from human nature! How pleasant to be introduced to that jolly old Briggs again, dragged as he now is through inconceivable catastrophes of salmon-fishing, in presence of the most self-possessed and metaphysical of Scotchmen! These Briggs illustrations alone are, as people are fond of saying, worth the whole price of the number. The most striking picture, however, is that of the dark lane and the garters (an extremely seasonable woodcut); while, for exquisite lightness, brightness, and airiness, we must turn to the one entitled "A Cavalier," and feast our eyes on that girl in the balcony (the bareheaded one, you know), with the round face and the round eyes, looking down into the breezy morning with an expression and action made up of fun and timidity. The only weak things in the *Almanack* are the first page and the last—the one by Mr. Tenniel and the other by Mr. Leech.

The literature of the number is very buoyant and amusing; and the legends of certain amiable saints—in which we fancy we detect the thoughtful and fantastic pen of Douglas Jerrold—are admirable.

The Arts.

M. JULLIEN'S BAL MASQUÉ.

To innocent readers of M. JULLIEN'S preliminary announcement it might have appeared that the Bal Masqué was one of our national or at all events nationalized institutions, which had suffered for the moment some loss of character from the Covent Garden catastrophe, but which the great JULLIEN was destined to 'rehabilitate.' There was perhaps a certain impudence in this assumption, but the British public is indulgent, and M. JULLIEN knows it. The truth is, and M. JULLIEN knows it also, that the Bal Masqué—which even in Paris has declined into a dull orgie of tenth-rate lorettes and hairdressers' assistants (garnished of course with plentiful police, and the usual supply of English Greens)—never was and never will be acclimatized in England. Even JULLIEN himself (whose celebrity, however, is more English than French) has never, with all his trumpets, been able to make a Bal Masqué anything better than a dull riot and a dreary sham. The general manginess of the few men who have the evil courage, or the deplorable fatuity, to be funny on these occasions (we do not speak of those unconscious tragedians, who are more or less paid for personating somebody or something)—the degradation of the wretched women, generally of an inferior rank even in that profession, who are swept in from doubtful streets—the din of trashy dance-music played anyhow (provided always there be noise enough)—the expression of disgust and *ennui* on the faces of the mere spectators—and last, not least, the ghastly solemnity of JULLIEN himself, with his prodigious shirt-front, and that equivocal red camellia in his buttonhole,—all these sights and sounds conspire to make the Bal Masqué as intolerably stupid and dismal a Pandemonium as can be conceived. What can we say of the latest of these exhibitions, except that, as a failure, it surpassed its predecessors? Never were the few masquers more witless or more dirty, never were the women more ugly or more unselected. The whole spectacle was irredeemably disreputable and dull. M. JULLIEN, we believe, affected to be indignant at a few overcoats among the spectators, who were expected to be in rigorous evening dress. As if an overcoat were not *de rigueur* in such a company! But M. JULLIEN did not, or could not, see the outrages against decency, which made his indignation at overcoats an impertinence. We trust that for the sake of his reputation, which the notorious inferiority of his recent concerts has not strengthened, M. JULLIEN will be too well advised to repeat experiments upon that proverbial indulgence of the English public to which he owes so much.

THE PANTOMIMES AND BURLESQUES.

The whole world of 'Faery,' as by theatrical law established, was thrown open to the juvenile creation, and the creation of papas and mammas, last night at the various London theatres. Gorgeous were the visions of enchantment; fascinating the young lady fairies in the flesh-coloured tights; prodigiously comical the clowns; superhumanly dazzling the harlequins; ceaselessly pattering the jokes, good, bad, and indifferent. These Christmas gaieties being produced only a few hours before the time we go to press, we cannot pretend to give a critical account of them; but we propose to be more in season next week, and in the meanwhile we append a slight index to the chief splendours—an index which the reader will be so good as to consider the reverse of *expurgatoria*.

BIRTHS AND DEATH.

BIRTHS.

PHILLIMORE.—On Saturday, the 20th inst., at 21, Chester-square, the wife of John George Phillimore, Esq., Q.C., M.P.: a son.
THOMAS.—On the 24th of October, 1856, at Seakote, Punjab, the wife of Captain Barclay Thomas, 27th Regt.: a son.

DEATH.

SHERARD.—On the 18th inst., at Leadonham, in the county of Lincoln, the Right Hon. Lady Jane Sherard, fourth daughter of the late Philip, Earl of Harborough, and sister of the present Earl.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 23.

BANKRUPTS.—WAKEFIELD PIM, Kingston-upon-Hull, commission agent—JOHN PETER M'MORLAND GREIG, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn, and of Wheatstall-yard, Farringdon-street, cabinet maker—GEORGE GOSLING, Sidmouth, Devonshire, builder—EDWARD JENKINS, Birmingham, draper, hosier, and laceman—ARTHUR HOLDER, Heap Brow, Lancashire, paper manufacturer—GEORGE TRAVIS, Oldham, Lancashire, flour dealer and tallow chandler—JOHN JAMES TAGO, Reading, Berkshire, innkeeper and brewer—JOHN PETER KNIGHT, Hibernia-chambers, Southwark, and York-street, Fentouville, hop and seed merchant and brewer—WILLIAM BUCKLAND, Ealing, Middlesex, corn, coal, and hay merchant, and farmer—BENJAMIN CALLAWAY, Southsea, Southampton, builder—HENRY JOHN GIRDLESTONE, Brighton, Berlin wool dealer and fringo and trimming seller—JOHN BISHOP, Crosby-hall-chambers, Bishopsgate, and of Grosvenor-lodge, Maiden-lane, Highgate, wine merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—D. GRAHAM, Glasgow, commission merchant—J. M'RODIE, sen., Crief, writer—D. STEWART, Coupar-Angus, shoemaker—W. WALLACE, Forfar, mason and contractor—CAMPBELL, YUILL, and Co., Glasgow, bleachers and finishers—A. CAMPBELL, Glasgow, coal and commission agent—J. FRASER, Inverness, baker.

Friday, December 26.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—TOM FOWLER SLATER Bradford, grocer.
BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE WILLIAM JONES, Oxford-street, milliner—JAMES WOOD, Shude-hill, Manchester, cheese factor—THOMAS WELLS, Dorset-place, Clapham-road, grocer—ROBERT ASHWORTH, Rosendale, Lancashire, cotton spinner—FRANCIS BOYD, Tyneworth, grocer and flour dealer—JOHN M'MILLAN, Liverpool, shipowner—GEORGE SWILLIAM, Leeds-street, Liverpool, wheelwright and blacksmith—FREDERICK READ DAVIES, Union-street, Plymouth, auctioneer and forage dealer.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, December 25, 1856.
CHRISTMAS, as usual, has had an effect on the funds. Thursday, the 25th, was of course a *dies non*; but on previous days the transactions in the public funds were not brisk, and the tendency to sluggishness natural to the season

of the year was increased by the uneasy feeling consequent on the present state of the canal between Prussia and Switzerland, the anticipation of war at this quarter, and the conflicting rumours which have reached this country with respect to the approaching Parisian Conference. Consols, which closed on Saturday firm at 94 to 94½, opened on Monday morning at 93½ 94½, and such continued to be the state of things to the close of the day. This depression, however, has been since removed, and to-day (Friday) Consols were 94 to 94½ all the morning. New Threes, 94½ 94½; Three per Cent. Reduced, 93½ to 94½. Exchequer Bills, 1s. discount to 2s. premium, and the Bonds 98½. Still, the amount of business done was but small.
Money is in active demand. Considerable interest has been excited in London by the run for gold at the various provincial branches of the Irish National Bank; but, at the latest advices, it would appear that the transmission of cash from England, together with the promptitude of payment, has tended to reassure the panic-stricken depositors.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, December 26, 1856.
We have had a fair arrival of Wheat into London, and the trade is not so brisk as it generally is at this season, but a feeling seems to prevail that there will be a slight reaction at the turn of the year, which the smallness of the supplies in the country markets tends to strengthen. There is not more than one cargo of Wheat off the coast. Sales have been made—Taganrog Chirkas, 57s. 8d.; Bohemia, 4s. Maize in a good sale. Odessa and Galatz 36s. and 37s. Oats and Barley on the spot are each nominally the same as last week.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	.....	.....	217½	218	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	93½	93½	93½	94	.....	94½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Consols for Account	94½	93½	93½	94	.....	94½
New 3 per Cent. An.	94½	93½	94	94	.....	94½
New 2½ per Cent. ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	2 p	2 d	.....	2 p	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	3 p	3 p	par	1 d	.....	2 p
Ditto, £500	4 p	4 p	par	.....	.....	2 p
Ditto, Small	5 p	1 p	par	2 d	.....	4 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)		Portuguese 4 per Cents.	
Brazilian Bonds	100½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	.....	Russian 4 per Cents	96½
Chilian 6 per Cents	109½	Russian 4½ per Cents	96½
Chilian 3 per Cents	.....	Spanish	42½
Dutch 2½ per Cents	66	Spanish Committee Cer-	.....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	97½	of Coup. not fun.	6½
Ecuador Bonds	.....	Turkish 6 per Cents	95
Mexican Account	21½	Turkish New, 4 ditto	102½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	77½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents	.....
Portuguese 3 per Cents	45½		

DRURY LANE produces a pantomime entitled *See, Saw, Margery Daw*; or, *Harlequin Holiday and the Island of Ups and Downs*. The scenery is by Mr. BEVERLEY—a sufficient guarantee for unsurpassable fairy beauty; and Miss ROSIEA WRIGHT, one of the best of English dancers, twinkles through what DICK SWITELLER called "the windings of the mazy."

Mr. BUCKSTONE, at the HAYMARKET, gives us a pantomime called *The Babes in the Wood*; or, *Harlequin and the Cruel Uncle*—a subject from which we augur much quaint and delicate beauty. Mr. WILLIAM CALLCOTT paints the scenery. A graceful allusion to the Resolute and her generous, gallant officers is introduced; and we are glad to find that the really national air of "Yankee Doodle" replaces the dynastic "*Partant pour la Syrie*." In the former case, we know that we are being brought heart to heart with a people—not merely with a family or a political sect.

Our old friend *Aladdin*, or, *the Wonderful Lamp*, with the addition of some new features, forms the subject of the PRINCESS'S pantomime. The enchanted palace is spoken of as being particularly splendid, though we do not hear that Mr. KEAN has worked in any of his Shakspearean scenery or decorations. The harlequinade includes the performances of M. DESIRAI'S troop of dogs, &c.

Conrad and Medora; or, *Harlequin Corsair and the Little Fairy at the Bottom of the Sea*, is the title of the LYCEUM entertainment, which, like the ADELPHI extravaganza last year, and this too, is a combination of burlesque and pantomime. It is founded on the famous Parisian ballet of *The Corsair*, and the opening portion is written by Mr. WILLIAM BROUGH. The first scene is "The Naiad's Crinoline Temple," which, to our sensitive apprehensions, seems scarcely 'proper'; but the subject, unquestionably, is airy and expansive. In the pantomime part there are two clowns, one of whom is the ever-juvenile TOM MATTHEWS.

The ADELPHI company musters full strength to another burlesque-pantomime, called *Wittikind and his Brothers*, in which the celebrated *Mother Shipton* figures.

Pure burlesque, which is now rather at a discount, is patronized at the OLYMPIC, where the scintillating pen of Mr. FLANCHÉ provides us with a fairy extravaganza called *Young and Handsome*, which, of course, contains a part for ROBSON.—At the STRAND, we have *The Magic Mistletoe*; or, *Harlequin Hunting and the Shams of London*;—and at the MARLBOROUGH, Mr. EMERY, who now opens his first managerial campaign, has struck out a new idea in producing a pantomime of the press, called *Tit, Tat, Toe, My First Go*; or, *Harlequin N.E.W.S.*, and the *Fairies of the Fourth Estate*. A contemporary announces that "all the newspapers of the day are embodied, and their influence over the world demonstrated by scenic and mechanical illustrations." In that case, we shall expect to find our own influence demonstrated in some happy pun, pointing out that we are emphatically "the Leader."

SADLER'S WELLS produces *The Fisherman and the Genie*; or, *Harlequin Paimona*. At the SURREY, we have *Harlequin and the Summer Queen*; or, *King Winter and the Fairies of the Silver Willows* (by the way, we recollect a similar subject at this house some fifteen years ago). ASTLEY'S rejoices in *Paul Pry on Horseback*; or, *Harlequin and the Magic Horseshoe*; and various other glittering freaks of fancy are provided for the frequenters of the humbler theatres and the saloons.

All the Exhibitions have been in full swing this week; but we can only find room to mention that the COLOSSEUM, Regent's Park (which, it seems, after all, is not to be desecrated by Methodism), has been giving some concerts and dioramas; and that General TOM THUMB—now a young man of nineteen, but still the tiniest of dwarfs—has reappeared, to the delight of the ladies, at the REGENT'S GALLERY, in the Quadrant.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

On Monday and during the week the performances will commence with

DELICATE GROUND.

Mr. G. Vining, Mr. Leslie, and Mrs. Stirling.

After which, an entirely new and original *Fairy Extravaganza*, called

YOUNG AND HANDSOME.

Supported by Miss Swanborough, Mrs. Melfort, Miss Thirwall, Miss Clara St. Casse, Mr. F. Robson, Mr. J. Rogers, Mr. Franks, &c.

To conclude with the new Farce called

CRINOLINE.

In which Mr. F. Robson, Mr. F. Vining, Mr. H. Cooper, Mr. Danvers, Miss Maskell, Miss Bromley, &c., will perform.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S OLIO OF ODDITIES, with New Costumes and Various Novelties, Vocal and Characteristic. Every Evening (Saturday excepted) at Eight.

A Morning Performance on Saturdays at Three.

Private Boxes and Stalls may be secured, without extra charge, at the Box Office, Polygraphic Hall, King William-street, Charing-cross.

GENERAL TOM THUMB HAS ARRIVED.

This American MAN IN MINIATURE, undoubtedly the smallest in the world, intelligent, sprightly, educated, perfectly symmetrical in all his proportions, and graceful beyond belief, will hold THREE PUBLIC LEVEES EACH DAY, for a short time only, at the Regent Gallery, Quadrant, Regent-street. He will appear in a great variety of New Characters and Costumes—Songs, Dances, Grecian Statues, &c. &c. His Miniature Equipage will promenade the streets daily. The General was honoured with the patronage of her Majesty and the élite of fashion in 1844. Particular Notice.—Ladies and families who can conveniently attend the early Morning Levees (from 11 till 1 o'clock) will incur much less inconvenience from the crowd than by visiting the later Levees—Hours of Exhibition: From 11 till 1; 3 till 5; and 7 till 10 o'clock. Admission to promenade, areas, and gallery, without regard to age, 1s.; reserved stalls, 2s.; children, 1s.; drawing-room seats, 3s.; children, 1s. 6d.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.

4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of man, &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton; and a new Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, P.M.—Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. Kahn, gratis.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

HARRINGTON PARKER & CO. are now delivering the October brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by **HARRINGTON PARKER & CO., 54, Pall Mall.**
November 24th, 1856.

HARRINGTON PARKER, and CO., Wine and Spirit Merchants, 54, Pall Mall, London. offer to the public Old and Superior WINES, pure, and of the finest quality, at prices not exceeding those charged for ordinary Wines.

HARRINGTON PARKER, and CO. would call special attention to their PALE and GOLDEN DINNER SHERRIES, as under: Imperial Pils, 27s. to 34s. per dozen; or bottled in Reputed Quarts, 30s. to 45s. per dozen. Agents for Allsopp's Pale and India Ale.

THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

Are enabled, by their connexion with the principal wine growers, to supply every description of WINE of the finest qualities at prices for cash far below the average, including their

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.
Genuine ditto, 35s. per dozen.
Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.
Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.
Claret, from 30s. to 54s.

Post orders must contain a remittance.

SPANISH and WESTPHALIA HAMS, &c.
per lb. Good Cheshire Cheese, 54d., 64d., and 74d. per lb. Rich Blue Mould Stilton, 8d., 10d., and 12d. per lb.; matchless do, 14d. per lb. Osborne's famed best Smoked Breakfast Bacon is now in excellent cure. York Hams, large and small, in abundance, and Butters in perfection at reasonable rates. A saving of 15 per cent. to the purchaser of all provisions. Packages gratis.
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KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A

Certain Remedy for Disorders of the Pulmonary Organs: in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication). They are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma, and in Winter Cough, they have never been known to fail.

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Established 1823.

BANKERS.—The Commercial Bank of London.
RESIDENT PROPRIETOR.—Mr. John Vose Moore.
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They supply families properly introduced to them, or who can give them any respectable reference, upon the best trade terms, in parcels of any size exceeding 1lb. weight. Teas, when desired, are packed in 14lb., 14lb., and 20lb. canisters, without extra charge; and 3l. value (including Coffee) forwarded carriage paid.

Good to Strong Congout Tea.....2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per lb.
Fine to very fine Pekoe Souchong.....3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. "
Very Choice Souchong.....4s. 0d. "
Good Ceylon Coffee.....1s. 0d. "
Fine Costa Rica.....1s. 2d. "
The finest Mocha, old and very choice.....1s. 6d. "

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Monthly Price Circular free.

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Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the entire confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Its leading distinctive characteristics are: COMPLETE PRESERVATION OF ACTIVE AND ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES.

INVARIABLE PURITY AND UNIFORM STRENGTH. ENTIRE FREEDOM FROM NAUSEOUS FLAVOUR AND AFTER-TASTE.

RAPID CURATIVE EFFECTS, AND CONSEQUENT ECONOMY.

OPINION OF

C. RADCLIFFE HALL, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Physician to the Torquay Hospital for Consumption, Torquay, Author of "Essays on Pulmonary Tubercle," &c. &c.

"I have no hesitation in saying that I generally prefer your Cod Liver Oil for the following reasons:—I have found it to agree better with the digestive organs, especially in those patients who consider themselves to be bilious; it seldom causes nausea or eructation; it is more palatable to most patients than the other kinds of Cod Liver Oil; it is stronger, and consequently a smaller dose is sufficient."

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New and beautiful effects are now produced in the work-rooms of THE SPONSALIA by a combination of foreign with native talent. The dress is fitted to perfection, and ornamented in pure taste; the mantle is trimmed to harmonize with the colouring of the dress; and the wreath artistically mounted by a Parisienne of eminence, completes a tout ensemble for ball and evening costume that can only be created where the great variety of workers are united in one house. The dress, made up, with mantle and wreath complete, will be supplied from 3 guineas to 100. The new French petticoat, and every description of plain and ornamental under-clothing for ladies, will be found in the out-fitting rooms of The Sponsalia.

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French Silks in checked and bared Glacés, wide width, at 25s. 6d. the dress.

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Rich French 3-flounced Silk Robes, at 52s. 6d.

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Flounced and double skirt Tweed Dresses, trimmed velvet and plush, at 18s. 6d.

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Opera Cloaks and Borneo Mantles, in every shade of colour, at 18s. 6d.

Rich Beaver Cloths and Velvet Mantles, at equally moderate prices.

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Furs of every description.

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The FORTY-SEVEN SHILLING SUITS, made to order, from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool and thoroughly shrank.

The PELISSIER SACS, 21s., 25s., and 28s.

The BENJAMIN CLEVER and PROFESSIONAL OVER or UNDER COAT, from 30s. The ALBERT LONG FROCK or OVER COAT, from 35s. to 55s. The REVERSIBLE WAISTCOAT, buttoning four different sides, 14s.

The TWO GUINEA DRESS and FROCK COATS, the GUINEA DRESS TROUSERS, and the HALF-GUINEA WAISTCOATS.—N.B. A perfect fit guaranteed.

COMMON SENSE TROUSERS, One

Guinea, worth two pairs at 16s. or 17s. 6d., which are mixtures of cotton shoddy, or dingy old stock. An immense choice of new, fresh, and fashionable patterns, warranted pure wool, and cut by a professional Trousers Cutter.
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WITHOUT A TRUSS.—DR. BARKER'S celebrated REMEDY is protected by three patents, of England, France, and Vienna; and from its great success in private practice is now made known as a public duty through the medium of the press. In every case of single or double rupture, in either sex, of any age, however bad or long standing, it is equally applicable, effecting a cure in a few days, without inconvenience, and will be hailed as a boon by all who have been tortured with trusses. Sent post free to any part of the world, with instructions for use, on receipt of 10s. 6d. by post-office order, or stamps, by **CHARLES BARKER, M.D., 10, Brook-street, Holborn, London.**—Any infringement of this triple patent will be proceeded against and restrained by injunction of the Lord High Chancellor.

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(Copy.)

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, February 19, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed)

"A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. Adnam and Co."

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each package bears the signature of the Patentes, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

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AN EXTRAORDINARY CURE of a SORE NECK.—Mr. H. J. Tomlinson, Barton-upon-Humber, Yorkshire, has informed Professor Holloway that a gentleman personally known to him had suffered for a very long time with a sore neck, which formed itself into an angry and running wound; he had the best medical advice for months, but it availed nothing. Finding that the disease increased to a alarming extent, he commenced using Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which in five weeks effected a perfect cure.

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The quality of beds, mattresses, &c., of every description he is able to guarantee; they are made on the premises, in the presence of customers; their prices are in harmony with those which have tended to make his house irremovably established the most extensive in the kingdom.

Feather beds.....	from £1 5 0 to 45 0 0
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Best Alva and cotton mattresses.....	0 6 6 " 0 19 0
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Blankets.....	each " 0 3 0 " 1 4 0
Toilet quilts.....	" 0 4 0 " 1 7 6
Counterpanes.....	" 0 2 6 " 0 15 0
Portable folding bedsteads.....	0 12 6 " 4 12 0
Patent iron bedsteads, with dove-tail joints.....	0 15 0 " 0 0 0
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Children's Cots.....	0 15 6 " 5 0 0
Bed hangings, in every variety.....	per set " 0 14 0 " 10 0 0

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A REALLY GOOD STEEL PEN, adapting

itself to any Hand, very durable, will not corrode, and is flexible as the Quill. Price, only 1s. 6d. per box of 12 dozen, or post free for 1s. 9d. stamps. Sold only by the Makers, **PARTIDGE and COZENS, No. 1, Chancery-lane, (corner of Fleet-street).** Stationery 30 per cent. lower than any other house. Price lists post free. Shippers and the trade supplied.

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Sets, 4s. 4s.—Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent have been awarded for the production of a perfectly WHITE ENAMEL, for decayed FRONT TEETH, which can only be obtained at Messrs. Gabriel's Establishments.

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Consultation and every information gratis.

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The PNEUMATIC PALATE has excited the greatest admiration of the most eminent PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS of ENGLAND and the principal cities of the CONTINENT, who constantly favour them with their distinguished recommendations, and who consider their system to be greatly superior to any in use, as by it the greatest possible firmness and security in the mouth is attained.

It also renders the articulation clear and distinct, and the unpleasant whistling, so long complained of, impossible.—This to public speakers is invaluable.

An upper set, 10 Guineas; a lower set, 10 Guineas; a full set of Artificial Teeth, 10 Guineas; a single tooth, 1 Guinea. STOPPING, CLEANING, &c. ATTENDANCE, 10 TILL 5 O'CLOCK. ALL CONSULTATIONS FREE.

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The **REAL NICKEL SILVER**, introduced twenty years ago by **WILLIAM S. BURNON**, when plated by the patent of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

Fiddle or Thread or King's Old Silver Brunswick Pattern.

Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	38s.	40s.	42s.	44s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	30s.	32s.	34s.	36s.
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